S&P lowers RP credit rating from 'stable' to 'negative'

Story in Business, B1

Tito's lament: 'So near yet so far'

HOW'S MY ACTING?

By Norman Bordadora

ASIDE from public speaking, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. this week made full use of another talent he honed at the

TITO'S/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
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Fire put out in Erap's bedroom at Veterans

A SMALL fire hit jailed former President Joseph Estrada's bedroom last night.

The fire damaged a portion of his room inside the presidential suite of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, Estrada told the INQUIRER.

The flames, though easily put off by an aide using a fire extinguisher, destroyed his TV set and some video discs

FIRE/ A7

Mayor shot inside church

Killer casually walks up to the pew and fires

By Frank Cimatu and Jovelyn Reyes, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*
Romulo O. Ponte, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*, and TJ Burgonio

THE BRAZEN killing of a small-time mayor inside a church redefines the landscape of Philippine politics.

For the past seven months this year, Mayor Clarence Benwaren of the town of Tineg survived three attempts on his life in his native Abra. But not the one in Laguna yesterday.

Previous attempts on the mayor's life were preceded by warnings, but he did not receive any warning for this one, a police intelligence officer at Camp Dangwa in Benguet said.

At about 10 a.m. yesterday, the 33-year-old Benwaren was felled by an assassin's bullet inside the San Isidro Labrador church in Calauan, Laguna, while standing as a sponsor at a wedding.

A church worker said Benwaren was

MAYOR/ A19

DEAD on arrival: Tineg, Abra Mayor Clarence Benwaren at the San Pablo Community Hospital. His wife Soledad, seated at right, is still in shock. ERIK ARAZAS

NOTHING seems to be sacred to the killer who gunned down Benwaren during a wedding inside the San Isidro Labrador Church in Calauan, Laguna. ERIK ARAZAS

Suspects in lotto slay include wife, son

By Nelson F. Flores

BECAUSE she was outraged by her husband's daily drinking spree for two weeks straight, Leticia Eufemia, left home last Sunday and may have spared her life. But not from suspicions that she may have been involved in the killing of her husband, Arturo Eufemia, 58, who had become an instant multi-millionaire when he won the lotto last Oct.12.

Shortly after midnight of Sunday, seven armed men broke into the Eufemia house at Block 9 Lot 2 Nazarene Ville, Barangay San Roque, Antipolo City and shot Arturo dead.

Supt. Jose Dayco, Antipolo City police chief, said they have at least four suspects, including the victim's wife Leticia, 52, and adopted son Reynan, 31. He said solving the case is just a matter of time.

Reynan claimed that his adoptive mother Leticia and her daughter Melanie fear for their lives that they have yet to view the remains of Eufemia which now lie at the Our Lady of Peace Chapel in Quezon City.

"Even if we are close, she even refuses to tell me where she is," said Reynan who communicates with his mother through a cell phone.

Reynan told the INQUIRER that although he's adopted, he was the victim's nephew. His biological father and Arturo were cousins and childhood friends.

Dayco said the Eufemia couple

SUSPECTS/ A7

GSIS: Not a centavo from gov't workers' money

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

NOT a single centavo of the money contributed by state employees to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) was used in the purchase of Juan Luna's "Parisian Life."

Winston Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, made this assertion after government employees and legislators assailed the GSIS for its acquisition of the painting for a whopping P50.6 million.

"They are just misinformed because the funds used in the purchase of the painting came from profits of our property insurance business," Garcia said in a phone interview.

"Not a single centavo of our members' contributions went directly or indirectly to the painting," he said.

Garcia pointed out that the state pension fund is separate from the insurance business. "We are the biggest insurance (agency). We insure government property," he said. He disclosed that the GSIS insurance business netted P1 billion on gross income of P3 billion last year.

Garcia got an unexpected boost from someone who could be President Macapagal's rival in 2004, former Education Secretary Raul S. Roco.

"The acquisition by the GSIS of the Juan Luna painting is a noble act of patriotism and should be appreciated not only by art lovers but by every Filipino who loves his country," said Roco, who had already announced his intention to run for the presidency in 2004 on a platform highlighting the need for patriotism.

"It would have been a sad day if the priceless painting fell into the hands of foreign owners," he said in a statement.

GSIS/ A6

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THE MOST prestigious club of business and civic leaders in the Bay area hears out President Macapagal in San Jose, California, on Tuesday.
JERRY CARUAL/MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Go to RP, GMA tells Silicon Valley execs

SAN JOSE, California (VIA PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday flew to Southern California to encourage business leaders in the world's information technology capital to invest in the Philippines.

She said she was following up a terrorism-dominated Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' summit in Mexico with a business trip to Silicon Valley because she believed that "the best antidote to terrorism and poverty is political freedom and economic opportunity."

"In this interconnected world, opening a door in Silicon Valley can open opportunity for job creation in the Philippines," she said.

She touted the Philippines' rich pool of competent scientists, engineers, information technology workers, communication technologists and senior managers.

Yesterday she met with top executives of Silicon Valley firms which are already key investors in the Philippines to thank them and to encourage them to invest more.

She followed a roundtable discussion with CEOs of the Top 200 Bay Area companies with one-on-

GO TO RP/ A19

The sun never sets for Pinoy on INQ7.net

By Fe Zamora and JV Rufino
INQ7

THE SUN never sets for the Filipino on INQ7.net.

At any minute of the day in any part of the globe, at least 11 persons—most probably all Filipinos—are surfing the INQ7.net for a sight and sound—and virtual smell—of home.

Ranked the number one Philippine news website in the Philippines and abroad, the INQ7.net has 500,000 "unique visitors" per month. These visitors" can be traced through their IP, or Internet protocol, an electronic identification of the computer that a person uses to log on to INQ7.net.

It could be 73-year-old retired OFW Jose Vargas in Rome, 27-year old caregiver Atenia Dagiwa in Taiwan or James and Helen Aberin in Lublin, Poland, who are yearning for their homeland and finding solace by visiting the home pages of the INQ7.net.

In publishing business, the number of "unique visitors" can be compared to the number of copies sold by a newspaper.

INQ7.net also reached an un-

THE SUN/ A20

Imported veggies are cheaper, no thanks to WTO

By Gerald Lacuarta

(Last of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

WHEN vegetable farmers recently staged a picket outside the Rustan's Supermarket at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City, they threw rotten vegetables.

But they were hitting not only the supermarket chain but more so at the Macapagal administration's policy of liberalization and continued adherence to the World Trade Organization.

In compliance with WTO rules of removing trade barriers and gradually decreasing tariffs, the Philippine government has reduced tariffs on agricultural products to an average of 12 percent this year and further on to 9 percent by 2004.

Being a member-country in the WTO, the Philippines has committed to open its market under a

IMPORTED/ A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/30/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second **FRONTPAGE**

Tiglao talks tough, hits RAM warning

By Dona Pazzibugan and Martin Marfil

WHO are you to make a demand on the President?

Thus Malacañang shot back at the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM), which on Monday gave the administration until December to institute political reforms.

RAM spokesperson retired Col. Reynaldo Semaco said on Monday that the group, which had recently allied itself with vocal administration critic People's Consultative Assembly (PCA), agreed with the PCA that the political system should be changed, but that RAM would "withhold action" until the government had a chance to address critical issues.

He said the RAM, which had initiated several failed coup attempts against the Aquino administration, was for now adopting a "wait and see" attitude until Christmas.

"First of all, nobody makes demands on the President except the Filipino people," said Rigoberto Tiglao, presidential spokesperson.

"Secondly, we have to check again if that is an official statement of the RAM or just a statement by a member," he added.

In somewhat similar manner, the military dismissed the implied threat behind Semaco's statement, saying the group was a toothless foundation composed of "widows, orphans and civilians."

Moreover, military spokesperson retired Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion said, the Armed Forces were monitoring the activities of RAM.

Purificacion said RAM members who had gone back to military service had pledged loyalty to the military.

"RAM is mostly composed now of widows and orphans. These are pure civilians and as far as the AFP is concerned, I don't think any military man would venture into any activity that would destabilize government," Purificacion said.

"I appeal to RAM members to help the government and the AFP, instead of trying to give warnings that unduly cause panic among our fellowmen . . . I do hope that they adhere (to the peace agreement), not cause any undue acts of destabilization and panic to the state and the people," he said.

Purification also gave an assurance that the Armed Forces would not stage a coup against the Macapagal administration.

"As far as the military is concerned, the whole Armed Forces under the stewardship of Gen. Benjamin Defensor is 100 percent (behind) and (has expressed) unequivocal support for the commander-in-chief," Purificacion said.

According to Purificacion, intelligence men had been monitoring the activities of RAM members as part of "national security" operations.

The military, Purificacion said, had assessed that RAM would not be able to mount another coup.

Asked why RAM members were under surveillance if they were not considered a threat, Purificacion said the members could try "unauthorized activities."

"Any group . . . trying unauthorized activities should be monitored by the government agencies, not only the AFP, but the (other) government intelligence services . . ." Purificacion said.

Asked to comment, Samaco told defense reporters RAM members were used to being monitored for some time now.

RAM had declared its support for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo several months ago.

But it reportedly agreed with PCA that the country's political system should be changed from presidential to parliamentary.

Semaco told reporters Monday RAM members were not out to topple the administration, but wanted an alternative set-up.

"We'd rather not have (the 2004) elections if nothing changes. We'll wait until Christmas," he was quoted as saying.

Tiglao said yesterday authorities were not sure if the RAM leadership approved of the alliance with PCA.

"You have to remember that the RAM is very careful and its official stance only comes from the board (of directors)," he said.

Palace to PEA execs: Resign, please, please!

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG is still trying to convince directors of the scandal-plagued Public Estates Authority to resign, hoping they'd understand that this is what the public wants them to do.

Despite suggestions for President Macapagal-Arroyo to simply fire them, the Palace is not wielding this option just yet.

"We're talking to them," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said when asked if PEA directors had already turned in their resignations.

Appealing

PEA directors have defied President Macapagal's call for them to resign following the controversy over the alleged P600 million overpricing of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

Asked whether the President will later be forced to fire them, Tiglao said: "*Hindi naman*".

"We trust that they understand the public sentiment," Tiglao said.

Last weekend, Tiglao said that Malacañang was "appealing" to the PEA board to tender their resignations as "we emphasize it would not be an admission of guilt."

PEA director Rodolfo Tuazon, who was speaking on behalf of the board accused of bloating the cost of the road contract, earlier said that they would only resign once their names have been cleared.

Even whistle blower director Sulficio Tagud Jr. had refused to resign, saying such move will prevent him from further accessing additional documents needed to prove his case against his fellow directors.

"We are just appealing to Mr. Tagud that he realizes that this is not a case of firing of any individual who is being asked to resign, but it is the entire PEA board because of the controversy," Tiglao said last weekend.

Losing public trust

Only PEA director Joemari Gerochi had offered to resign and was promptly accepted by Malacañang during the height of the controversy last September.

In a previous speech, President Macapagal asked for the resignation of the entire PEA board, noting that she will appoint an "interim" board to manage the agency.

She made the move in the face of observations that the public was losing trust in her administration due to corruption.

Worst is over, says Dante Ang

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENTIAL publicist Dante Ang believes "the worst is over" in the controversy generated by his buying into BankWise.

Ang heaved a sigh of relief yesterday after foreign retirees comprising the Philippine Retirement Authority Members Association Foundation (Prama) cleared him of involvement in the dispute over funds deposited in the thrift bank under their name.

Prama earlier filed a complaint before the National Bureau of Investigation against BankWise officials, led by Ang as chair.

They later said Ang was named in the complaint only because they wanted him to investigate how the bank managed Prama funds.

"I'm still looking into it," Ang said in a phone interview, "but I believe the worst is over, and we can assure our depositors of the integrity of the bank's operations."

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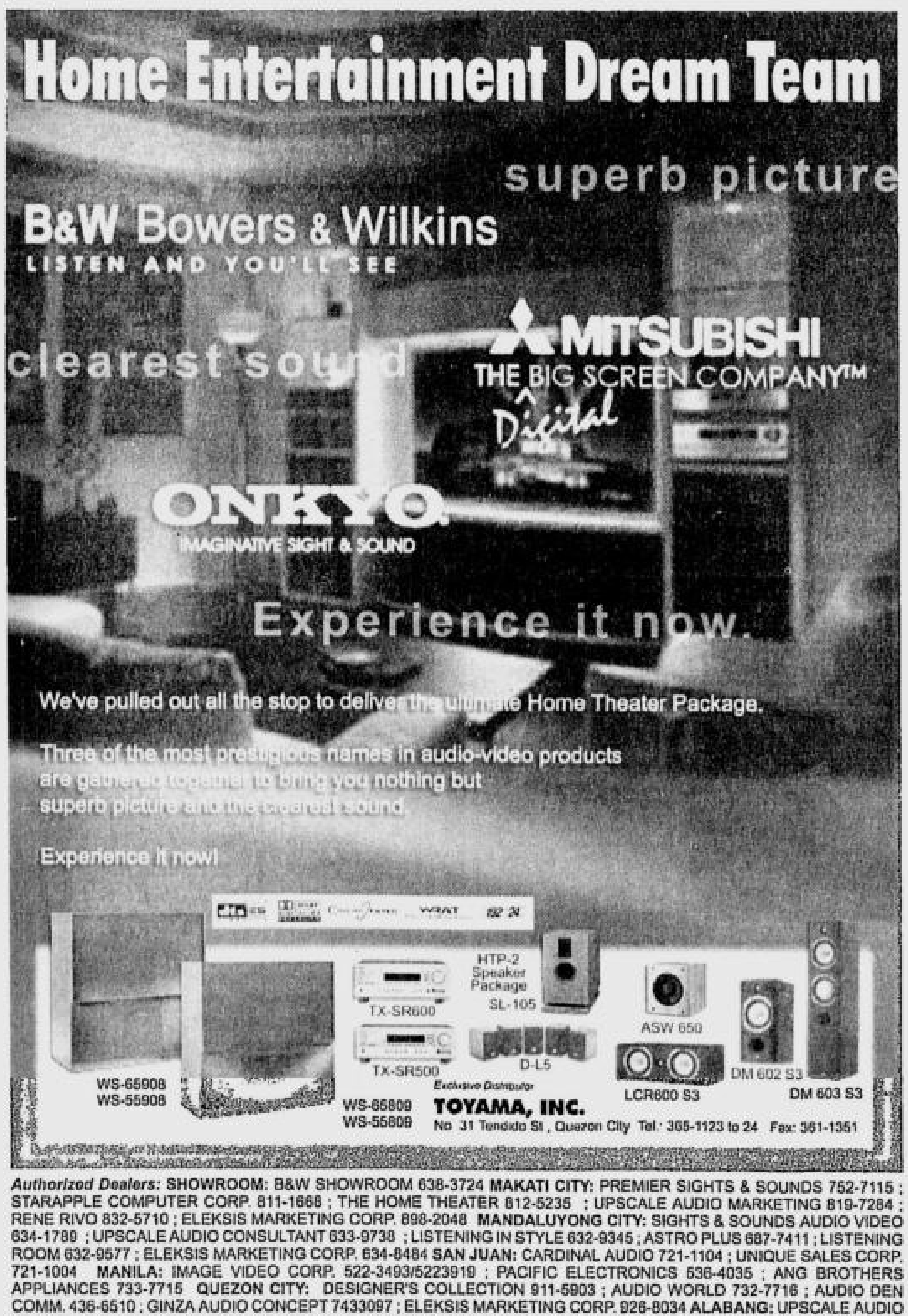

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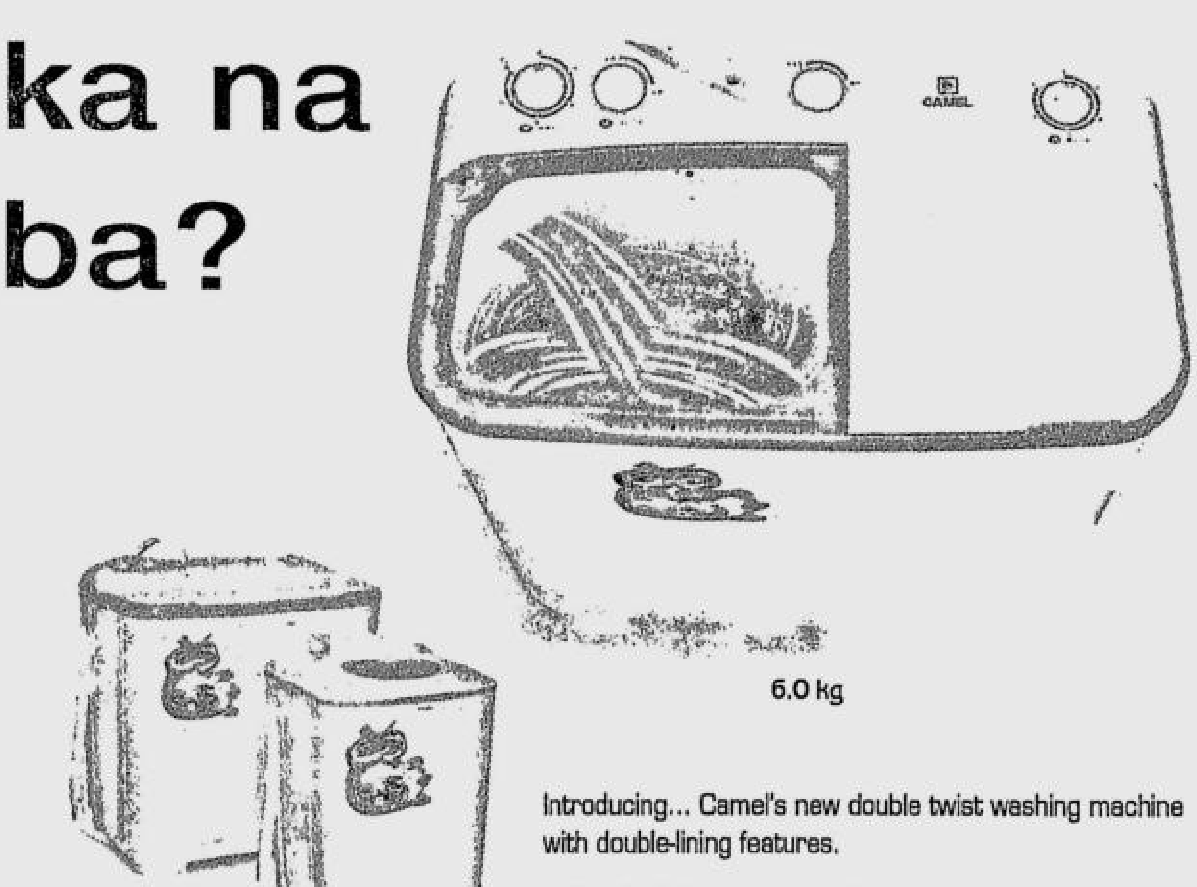

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Prices of basic goods stable--DTI

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry reported yesterday that prices of basic goods remain stable, except for flour and instant noodles, despite two rounds of oil price increases in October.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said prices have remained generally steady mainly due to the low inflation rate, stiff competition from both domestic and foreign rivals, and the low impact of transportation costs on manufacturing.

Cristobal said flour and instant noodles were the only products that moved upwards during the period and these adjustments were largely due to escalating world prices of wheat.

The DTI weekly monitoring report as of Oct. 29 showed that hard flour (used for bakery products) increased by 10.22 percent to P485 per 25-kilogram bag this month from P440 in September while soft flour (used for noodles) jumped 8.3 percent to P390 per bag this month from P360 a month ago.

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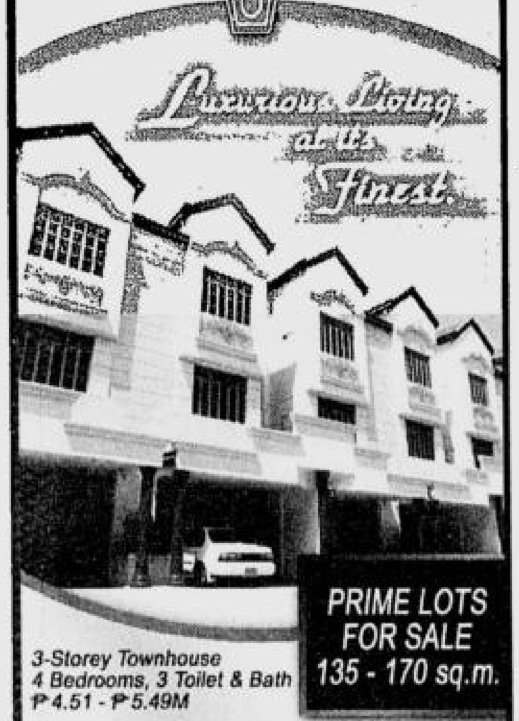

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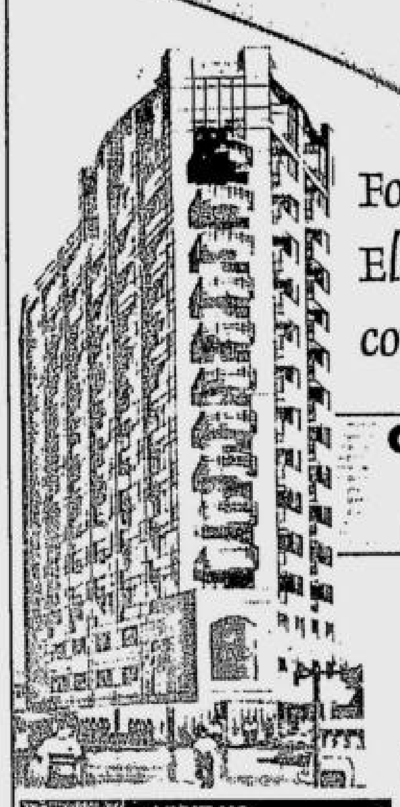

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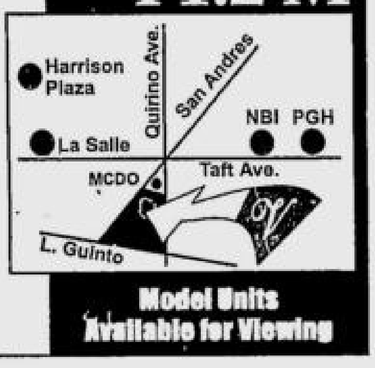

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ALL SAINTS' DAY PRECAUTION

Cops, AFP on full alert

By TJ Burgonio

BE extra careful when you set out to celebrate All Saints' and All Souls' Days this week.

Both the police and the military believe cemeteries and memorial parks are likely targets of terrorist attacks, given the thousands of people that converge in them for the annual commemoration of the dead.

Military spokesperson Eduardo Purificacion said the armed forces were "prepared for any threat," but other officials have urged the public to be watchful, and vigilant in guarding their own safety.

All police units were placed on maximum alert starting yesterday.

Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, chief of the directorial staff, said in a press briefing that the heightened alert status, adopted following the Oct. 2 bombing in Zamboanga City, has been upgraded for the duration of the long weekend.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier declared Oct. 31 through Nov. 2 as holidays, for a full four-day break, since Nov. 3 falls on a Sunday.

Elite strike units of the Philippine military—operatives of the special anti-terrorism and anti-crime task forces—have also been placed on a 24-hour alert, according to Purificacion.

Director Ricardo de Leon, director for police community relations, vowed that local units would be "on the ground, and visible."

Gil added that police directors in all 17 regions were setting up public assistance centers in strategic locations for paramedic rescue and traffic management.

In Metro Manila, he said, majority of the National Capital Region Police Office's (NCRPO) 16,000 personnel would be deployed in cemeteries, memorial parks, and bus depots, with eight army and police K-9 teams of five sniffing dogs each as backup.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan warned those going home to the provinces against abusive bus operators who may jack up fares. In a statement, Pangilinan called on the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to strictly monitor provincial bus companies and fly-by-night transport firms.

On the other hand, the senator said, people should protect themselves by reporting irregularities to concerned government agencies.

Also yesterday, Transportation Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza ordered stricter security checks in bus stations, ports, and airports where, he said, longer passenger lines were expected starting today.

Mendoza asked for the public's cooperation. "A little delay is worth everyone's safety," he said.

Department of Transportation and Communication spokesperson Thompson Lantion said terrorists should not stop Filipinos from observing tradition, but that a little more precaution was in order.

In addition to police telephone numbers, he said, DOTC action line 7890 was also open for emergencies. *With Rocky Nazareno and a report from AFP*

Kidnapper of Indons falls

A SUSPECTED Abu Sayyaf intelligence officer allegedly involved in the abduction of three Indonesians last June has been arrested in Zamboanga City where he was apparently looking for new kidnap victims, the military said Tuesday.

Army intelligence agents shot Bhala Bada in the leg when he tried to fight back while being arrested Monday, military spokesperson Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said. He was being treated in a military hospital.

Bada allegedly admitted during interrogation that he was among a group of gunmen who abducted four Indonesian tugboat crewmen off southern Jolo island on June 17. The captives were taken to the hinterlands of Jolo's Luuk town, where one managed to escape.

Bada, who has been identified as the "intelligence officer" of a small faction of the Abu Sayyaf group that officials have linked to al-Qaida, told investigators that the three Indonesians have been turned over to a larger Abu Sayyaf group in Jolo led by Radulan Sahiron, a one-armed rebel wanted by the military, Servando said.

Bada is also being investigated for possible involvement in a series of bomb attacks in Zamboanga that killed several people, including a United States Green Beret, this month, Servando said.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Evident premeditation—As to whether there was evident premeditation, it is necessary that the evidence shows: (a) the time when the offender determined or conceived to commit the crime; (b) an overt act of the offender manifestly indicating that he clung to his determination; and (c) a sufficient lapse of time between the determination and execution to allow the offender to reflect upon the consequences of his act. The essence of evident premeditation is that the execution of the criminal act is preceded by cool thought and reflection upon the resolution to carry out the criminal intent during the space of time sufficient to arrive at a calm judgment. Evident premeditation must be clearly proven, established beyond reasonable doubt and must be based on external facts which are evident, not merely suspected, and which indicate deliberate planning. The witness' testimony that, on at least 2 occasions before the victim's death, appellant punched and threatened to kill him, is not sufficient to establish evident premeditation. These 2 instances do not necessarily indicate that his death was coolly thought of and reflected upon by appellant and that he deliberately prepared in advance the means to execute such plan. The physical and verbal assault on the victim may have been made in a blind fit of jealousy by a spurned lover against a rival who won the hand of the fair maiden. In the absence of clear and positive evidence, mere presumptions and inferences of evident premeditation are insufficient. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Puno, People v. Judavar, G. R. No. 135521, April 11, 2001]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Court denies Erap bid to visit the dead

By Volt Contreras

DON'T add to the policemen's headaches on All Saints' Day; it's for your own safety.

This was the message conveyed by the Sandiganbayan to detained ex-president Joseph Estrada and co-accused son Jinggoy in denying their request to visit the graves of their loved ones this Nov. 1.

Apart from being careful not to set a "bad" legal precedent, the court said the Estrada may be better off honoring their dead in ways other than joining the crowd in cemeteries, which are now regarded by police as possible terrorist targets.

"For the Court to give due course to the motions at bar will be putting at stake the safety of both accused movants," it said in a resolution, adding:

"We cannot just disregard the possibility that. . . terrorist activities might occur this coming All Saints' Day. Fact is, police have announced and warned the public that cemeteries are high risk places for bombings on this particular day."

The Estradas, the court said, might as well just recite prayers or offer masses for their departed kin.

In an Oct. 14 pleading filed by court-appointed defense counsels, Jinggoy said he wanted to visit the grave of his maternal grandmother in Iba, Zambales, and that of his father-in-law in San Juan.

The elder Estrada filed a similar motion five days later, saying he, too, wanted to see his father's tomb in San Juan.

Both pleadings cited the Estrada "family tradition" as their basis for the request.

The court said it will be a "bad precedent" if the Estradas, on trial for plunder, would enjoy a privilege "scarcely conferred" on detainees similarly charged with a capital offense.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 30, 2002
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 6:1-9
Gospel: Lk 13:22-30

Jesus went through towns and villages teaching and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, is it true that few people will be saved?"

And Jesus answered, "Do your best to enter by the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you will stand outside; then you will knock at the door calling: 'Lord, open to us.' But he will say to you: 'I do not know where you come from.'

Then you will say: We ate and drank with you and you taught in our streets! But he will reply: 'I don't know where you come from. Away from me all you workers of evil.'

You will weep and grind your teeth when you see Abraham and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves left outside. Others will sit at table in the kingdom of God, people coming from east and west, from north and south. Some who are among the last will be the first, and others who were first will be last!"

Commentary

In Baptism, God blessed us with the gift of faith which made us children of the Father and heirs to the Kingdom. If we do not live our faith in a life concretely animated by love expressed in service, it may happen that others who perhaps have not even received sacramental baptism, but who, following the natural law of God in their hearts, have put themselves at the service of others, will soon find themselves sitting at the table in the banquet of God's Kingdom.

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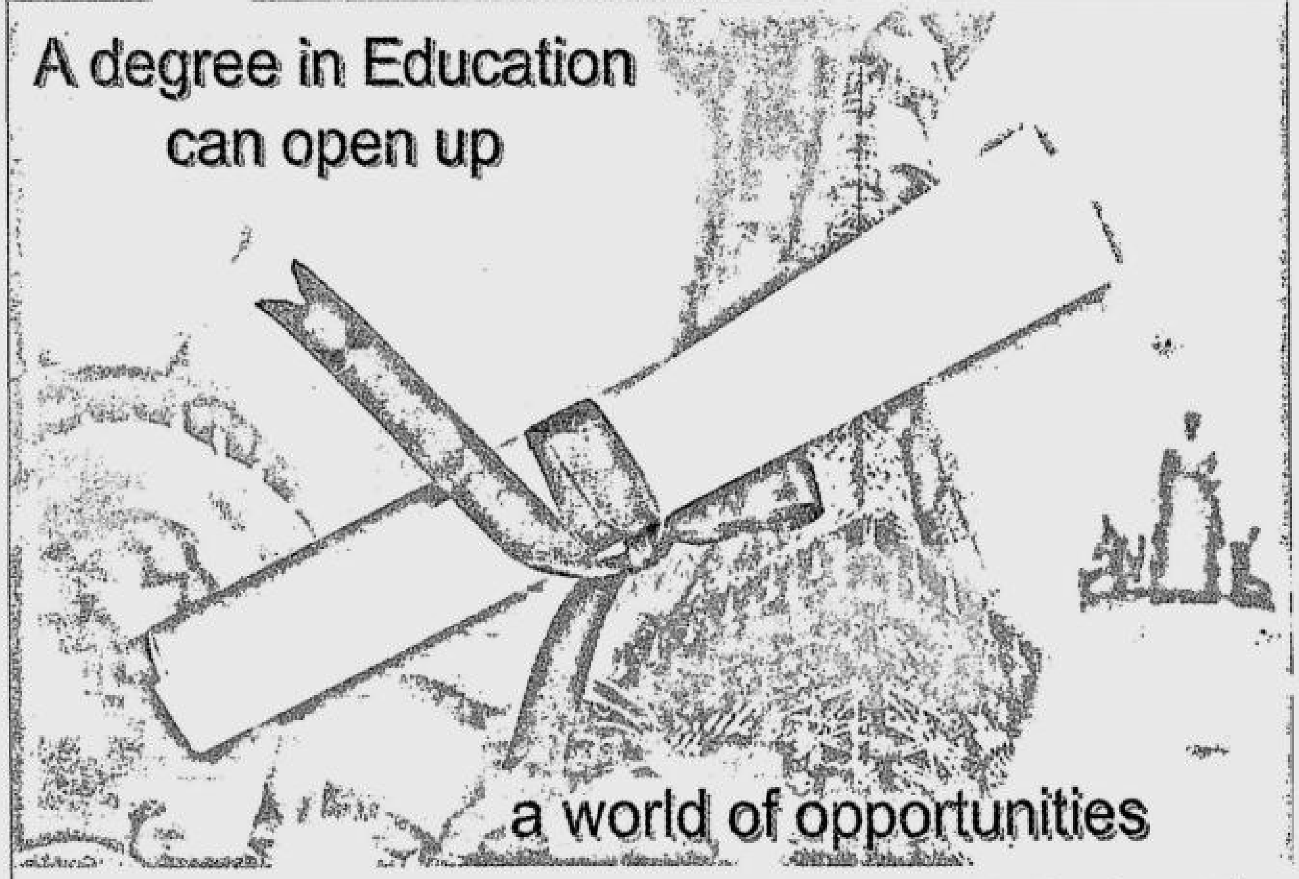

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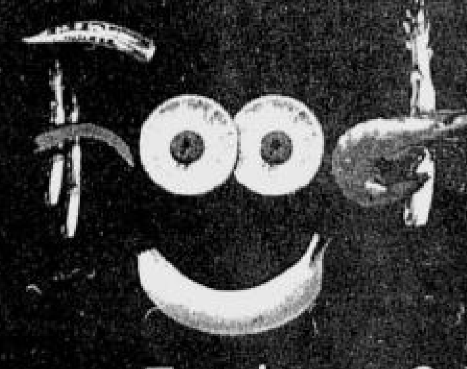

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RP negotiating for stable oil supply

SINGAPORE—The state-run Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) confirmed yesterday it is in talks with neighboring oil exporters about securing supplies should war disrupt Middle East crude flows.

The Philippines consumes about 330,000 barrels per day of oil and imports all its crude requirements, mainly from the Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia and Iran.

"Indonesia has committed to at least a one-time shipment of 600,000 barrels (of crude) if we need it, and we are talking with Pertamina about subsequent deliveries just in case there is any supply problems," PNOC president and chief executive officer Thelmo Cunanan said.

Cunanan said secure oil supplies was also the concern of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries and would be the focus of an ASEAN meeting tomorrow.

He said the Philippines was in talks with Brunei on oil supplies. The Philippines also buys crude and petroleum products from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore.

"We are also talking with Brunei about securing oil supplies and Brunei has said that in a crisis, they are willing to help, within the context of the ASEAN agreements," Cunanan said.

PNOC was also talking to Russia, he told reporters on the sidelines of the Offshore Southeast Asia 2002 conference.

"Russia is also being talked, I think there is a delegation leaving for Russia sometime this month," he said.

Cunanan said a petroleum security agreement among Asean members was under review by the Asean Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE).

Asean, which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philipines, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, signed the agreement in the mid-1980s although it has yet to be implemented to any extent.

"The Asean Petroleum Security Agreement is going to be discussed at a meeting in Phuket (Thailand) on the 31st of this month," Cunanan said.

"The thrust will be more on regional stockpiling but we will discuss the specifics in Phuket," he said.

Asian nations have become increasingly concerned over energy security as regional crude production dwindles while consumption grows.

The region already imports about 12 million barrels per day out of a daily demand of almost 20 million barrels. *Reuters*

4 Pinoys who beat slay raps home soon

FOUR Filipinos acquitted of the murder of a Canadian man in Kuwait are set to return to the Philippines next week after more than a year in custody, the foreign office announced yesterday.

Teddy Tomaro, Mary Jane Bitos, Noraisa Esick and Lourdes Viray were acquitted Sunday of charges of killing Luc Eithier, a Canadian employed by US defense contracting company Dyncorp who was shot and killed in a shopping area south of Kuwait City in October last year.

A Kuwait court had found no evidence linking the five to the attack, which had raised fears among the expatriate community in Kuwait of a revenge attack on a Westerner following the launch of US-led air strikes on Afghanistan on October 7 last year.

Bitos, who was married to the Canadian, and Tomaro were the principal suspects while Esick and Viray were held as accomplices.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said the Philippine government had spent some 150,000 dollars on the quartet's defense. He said Manila had always been confident the four would be freed since there were no witnesses and the murder weapon had not been recovered. *AFP*

Gary Valenciano

I've been a diabetic and taking insulin for the past 24 years. I am accustomed to checking my sugar levels three to four times a day."I was led by God to take this bitter pill through a Pastor friend who is concerned with my diabetes."

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I've observed that taking ABS is not an excuse for diabetics to splurge, though it has given me a lot of hope. It's nice to come home to take my insulin in the evening knowing that I can now take less. I don't have to worry about my sugar dropping too low. I'm speaking on a personal note because this is (ABS Bitter Herbs Ampalaya Plus 6 powerful vegetable herbs in capsule) that I've been taking for the past two years.

"ABS cleanses the body from toxins. As to how it works with insulin, that's something I really want to look into. I think it's nice to know as a Type 1 diabetic which is mas mahirap i-control, ABS is a product that has been helping me. I think people need to know that ABS effects may vary depending on who takes it. Kahit hindi diabetic I think it's going to help also. Give it sometime and see how it affects you. You have to adjust based on what your readings are or how you feel, go to the doctor or have yourself checked.

"I don't endorse products right away. I spend time with the people or I spend time with the product and then I endorse it. ABS is a perfect example. 2 years I've been using it with no hopes of even endorsing it. I mean, it just so happened na tinanong nila kami...Can Gary come out in public and tell people about ABS? I then told this to Angeli and I said: Sure! Why not? IT WORKS FOR ME! I will not endorse a product that I do not believe in... even if the price is right. But ABS is one product I believe in. I'm using it!

"I want to say this... If any of you is using ABS right now coz I know a lot of people know about the product na, that's no excuse para makapag splurge na, *"Anyway I'm taking ABS naman eh, sige, kain ako ng todo."* No, it's not meant that way. ABS is meant to help maintain your sugar level..."*I exercise and maintain a healthy diet.... And my body's supercharged performance, nothing beats ABS Bitter Herbs Capsule"* So it helps...it all works together.

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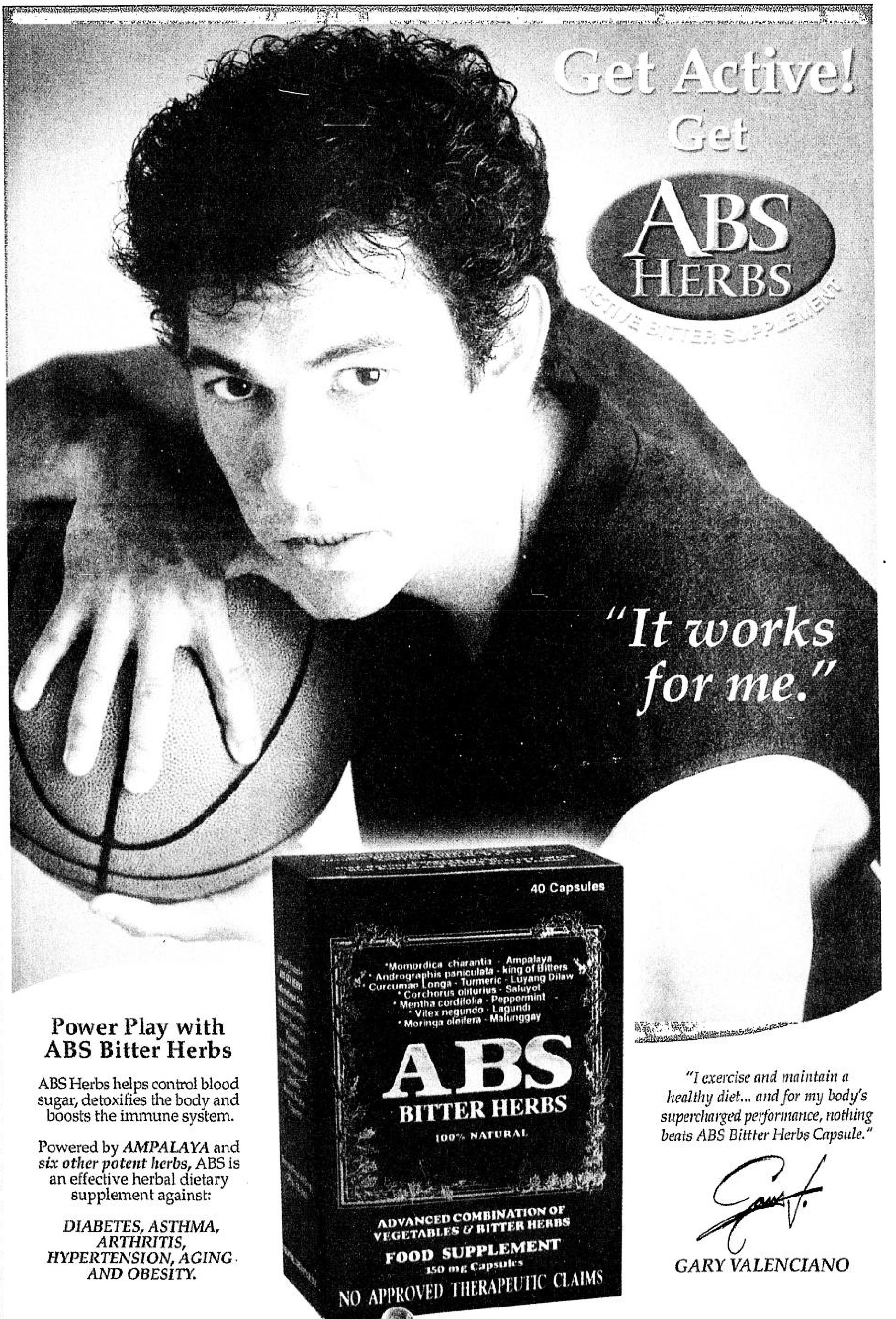
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Gov't unions to picket Luna opening at GSIS

MEMBERS of a government union announced yesterday that they would picket the opening and official public viewing of Juan Luna's "Parisian Life" at the GSIS Museum in the Manila Bay reclamation area.

Ferdinand Gaite, president of the Confederation for the Organization, Unity and Recognition of Government Employees (Courage), said Winston Garcia, GSIS president, may have violated Republic Act No. 8291 or the GSIS Act of 1997 which requires that the board of trustees approve disbursements and adopt guidelines affecting investments necessary for the effective management of the GSIS.

"A reliable source from the GSIS also told us that there was no board of trustees approval for the purchase of the painting, a violation of the GSIS charter," Gaite said.

He said this was a clear grave abuse of authority.

Gaite suspected there was collusion between Malacañang and GSIS officials in the purchase of "Parisian Life."

"Considering that the GSIS has shelled out a total of P50.6 million and not P46 million as earlier reported, it is clear that there was an agreement between the Palace and GSIS officials," he said.

Gaite cited an executive order from the Office of the President requiring all government agencies and financial institutions like the GSIS to seek prior approval from Malacañang for contracts, projects, payments involving P50 million and above before a government agency can release the amount. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

GSIS ...

From page A1

He said the Luna painting was part of "our cultural historical heritage and should be kept in this country as part of the national patrimony."

Roco said the Luna painting should be made available for public viewing so that Filipinos "can appreciate the rich cultural heritage of our country."

"This is a significant step in inculcating the values of patriotism, respect for our national artists and heroes, and love for the best in the Filipino. Our culture is priceless," the former senator said.

Despite objections from government workers and lawmakers, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) sees nothing wrong with the purchase by the GSIS of "Parisian Life."

OGCC chief Manuel A.J. Teehankee said GSIS officials led by Garcia were well within their authority to buy the 110-year-old artwork.

"The board of directors of GSIS (had acted) in the best interest of the pension fund," he said. "And as pointed out (in) newspaper reports, this is a very valuable property that should be expected to appreciate in value over time," he said.

Teehankee clarified that he was issuing the comment based on newspaper reports because he had yet to receive a formal request for any legal opinion on the matter.

The OGCC issues legal queries arising from contracts or purchases entered into by government-owned and -controlled corporations and financial institutions.

He said that the GSIS could later sell the painting, probably to rich Filipinos, at a "higher price."

But Vice President Teofisto Guingona said the government could have had a better deal in acquiring the Luna masterpiece than submitting the winning bid for the painting at Christie's auction in Hong Kong.

Guingona said the government could have notified Christie's auction house that the painting was being withdrawn from the auction and just offered a relatively lower price to the owner, Ramon Nakpil.

"According to economist Sixto Roxas ... instead of paying P50 million, we could have dealt with the owner and offered him a much smaller price for the painting," he told reporters. Roxas was the foreign undersecretary for international trade relations when Guingona was the foreign secretary.

Instead of spending P50 million for the painting, the GSIS could have used the money to increase the benefits of government workers, a government union said.

The Confederation for the Organization, Unity and Recognition of Government Employees accused Garcia of wanton use of the pension fund.

Bigger pension

Garcia said the GSIS had not been remiss in handling the members' contributions.

He said the pension of members was increased by 25 percent, the salary loan increased from three to eight months, and calamity loans raised from P8,000 to P10,000. He said effective Jan. 1, the maximum pension will be 90 percent of one month's basic pay.

Garcia said P24 billion is available for housing loans with interest lowered from 16 percent to 12 percent and this is non-reprisable, meaning this would be fixed for the maturity of the loan. He said the GSIS was lifting the limit on housing loans, previously set at a maximum of P500,000. The amount that one can borrow will now depend on his capacity to pay.

Busloads of students

He said he did not regret the decision to buy the painting.

He said the GSIS would spend money anyway for the upkeep of its museum. Part of maintaining a museum, he said, was to buy paintings.

"For that amount, we could have bought a hundred or perhaps thousands of other paintings," he said. "But I'd rather have this Luna than other painting. It's well worth it."

Garcia said the GSIS would generate public goodwill because the painting would be open for public viewing for free.

"This national treasure was hidden from the public for more than a century. It will be the first time our people can enjoy this historical work," he said.

Garcia said busloads of students arrived yesterday at the GSIS Museum and were looking for the painting. "They thought it is already on display," he said.

Christie's has yet to ship the painting back to the country where it will have a permanent home in a special room at the GSIS museum. *With reports from Donna S. Cueto, Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora*

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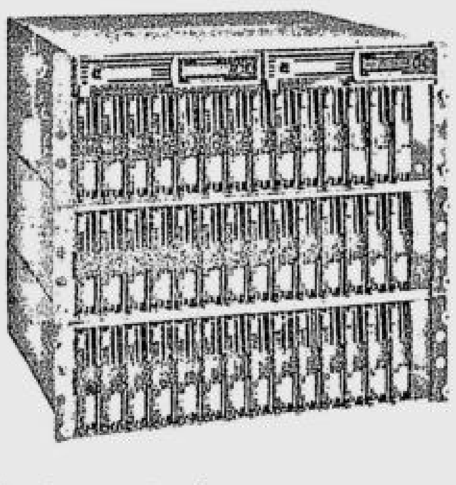

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Suspects in lotto slay include wife, son

From page A1

had a spat because Arturo's drunken orgies in their house was costing the family a lot of money.

Dayco said that last Sunday's drinking session alone cost at least P50,000 with 22 cases of beer and *"pulutan."*

The victim celebrated his 58th birthday last Sunday, the police said.

With her daughter Melanie, an angry Leticia took off and decided to stay with a relative in Camp Crame, Quezon City, and returned only after learning that her husband had been murdered, Dayco said.

"We find it odd that Ms Eufemia would just leave her husband like that hence we are investigating," Dayco said.

But Ms Eufemia explained that she left the house because she was nervous after she noticed several suspicious-looking men in a jeep loitering outside their house on Sunday morning, the day before her husband was killed.

Reynan supported his adoptive mother. He said it was not true that the Eufemia couple had been fighting over money which led to Leticia walking out on Arturo.

Dayco, on the other hand, said he found it suspicious that Reynan, who no longer lived with the Eufemia couple, suddenly returned to live at home after learning of his adopted father's winning.

P10,000 bonus

Reynan told the INQUIRER that he indeed left home last month but returned after learning that Arturo won the lotto and that food was abundant. He was taking on odd jobs like being a beautician and selling peanuts just to survive, he said.

Reynan confirmed to the police that his father won P19,936,113.00 from the lotto draw last Oct. 12. He, however, stressed that he knew nothing about what his father did with the money or where it was kept.

"He gave P10,000 as a bonus," Reynan said.

But the police suspect Reynan also on the basis that his life was spared by the vicious killers just because he pleaded for his life as he had recounted.

Dayco said the killers would have killed him as he witnessed the killing.

"I am not convinced with his claim that the killers took pity on him hence they let him live," Dayco stressed.

Husband, wife won lotto?

Dayco clarified that it was not Arturo who won the lotto draw but his wife. He added that Arturo reportedly also won millions of pesos in an earlier draw.

.He added that the other suspect being eyed by the police is Rico Guatno, a neighbor of the victim who initially denied that he was at the house of the victim at the time of the slaying.

"Why would he deny that he was there when he has nothing to hide?" Dayco asked.

It was Guatno who allegedly informed the police through hotline 117 about the incident.

They are also looking for the victim's houseboy, whose name was temporarily withheld. The houseboy disappeared after the incident, Dayco said.

Police records showed that the incident happened as Arturo was sleeping at about 1 a.m. last Monday after his drinking session.

The robbers took off with the family's new Toyota Hi-Ace van.

Reynan told investigators that shortly after the robbers broke into their house, he was awakened by loud noises coming from his father's bedroom. He added that when he tried to approach the room an unidentified armed man prevented him from doing so and it was at this point that he heard shots.

Reynan said he was afraid that something would happen to him and his family because of his father's new-found fortune.

"And my fear later proved to be true," Reynan said.

The young man told police that his father was shot apparently when he tried to resist the robbers. Reynan also said he looked for his father's gun, a .45 caliber pistol, but that he could not find it.

Fire . . .

From page A1

and tapes.

Estrada, 65, said the fire, which triggered mild panic in the suite at around 7:20 p.m., might have been started by sparks coming from an electrical extension plug.

He was then being interviewed by an SBN-21 TV crew at the suite's receiving area when they noticed smoke coming from the room.

"We are still cleaning the ashes. The room's a mess," Estrada said when reached at 8:30 p.m. "What really saved us was the fire extinguisher."

Two fire trucks from Quezon City responded to the fire alarm although the situation was already under control when the fire fighters arrived, the former president said.

Together with son Jinggoy, Estrada has been detained at the VMMC since May 2001 on charges of economic plunder. *Volt Contreras*

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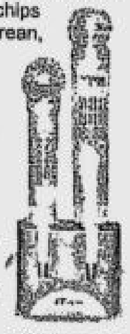

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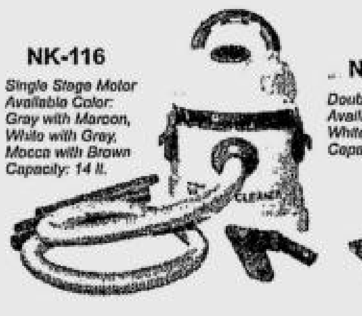
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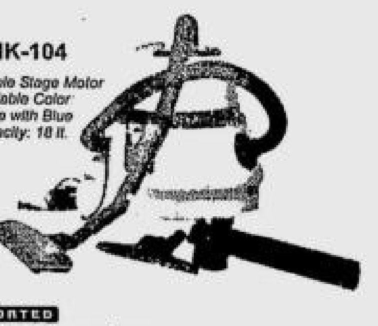

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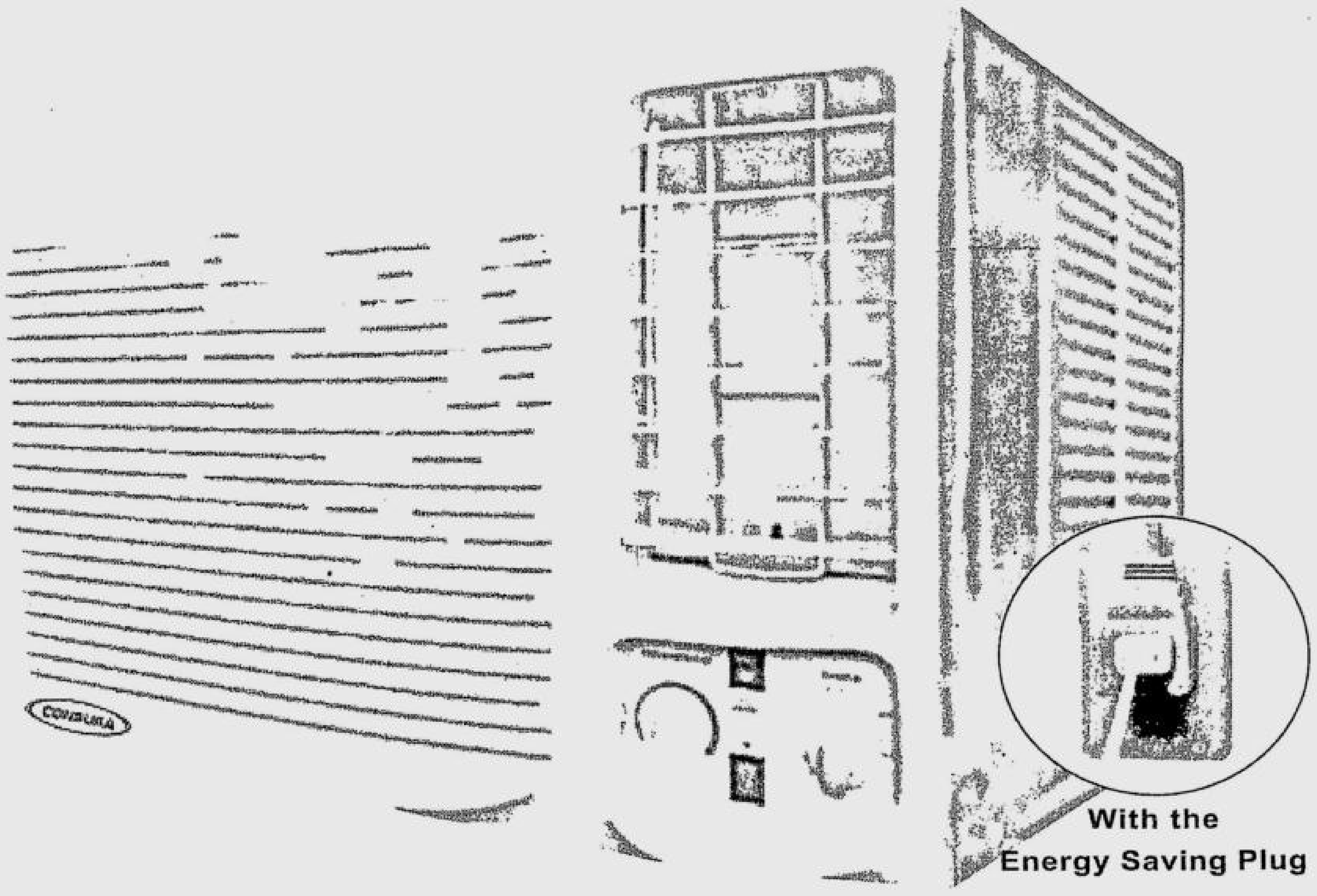

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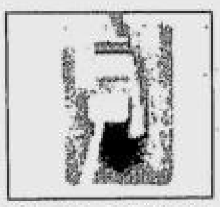

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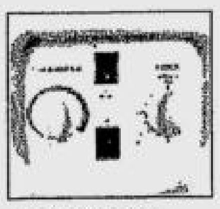

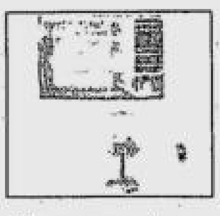
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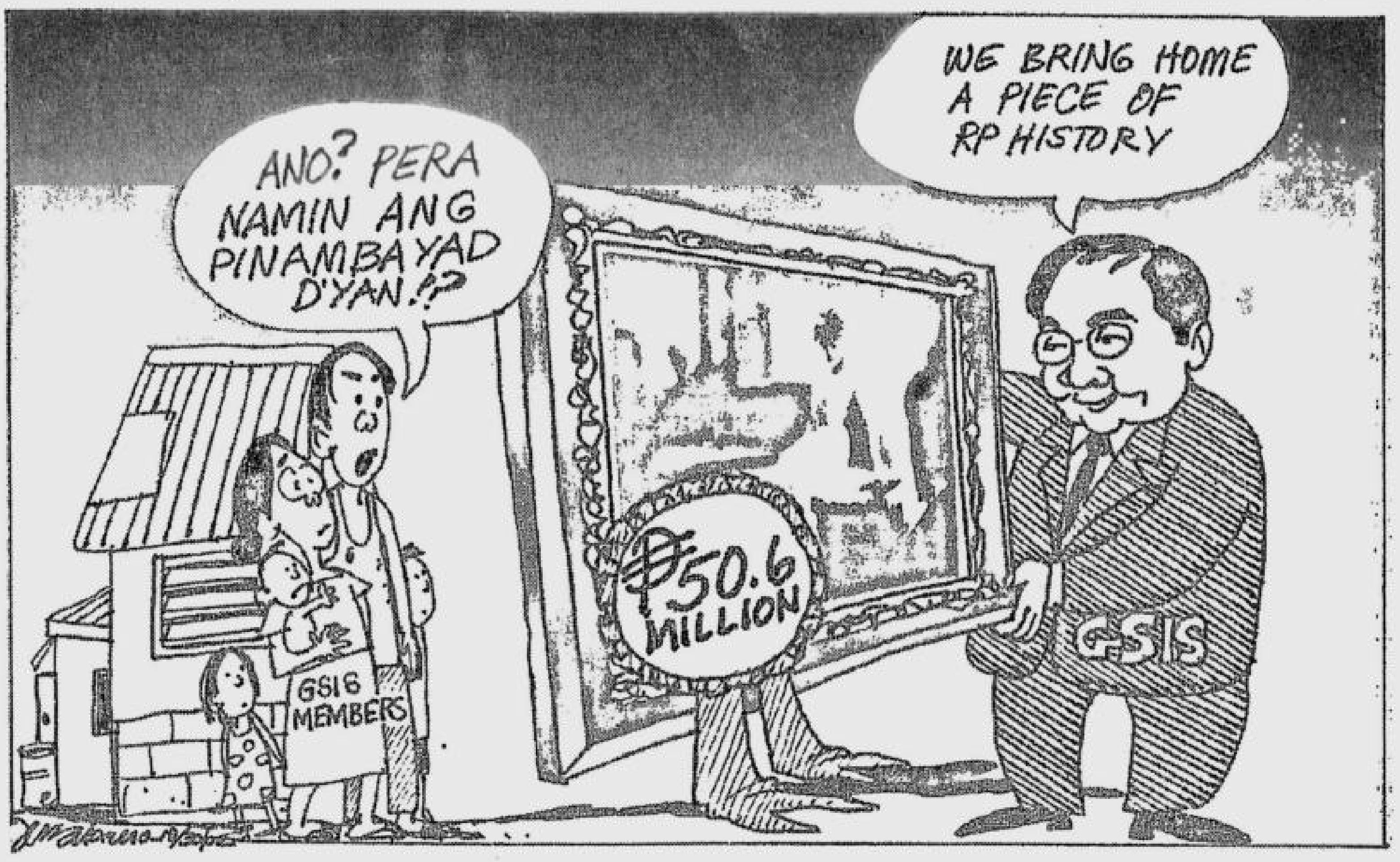
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A piece of history

EDITORIAL

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System has drawn a lot of flak from various quarters for its purchase of Juan Luna's "Parisian Life" at an auction held in Hong Kong Sunday. Sen. Manny Villar said GSIS president Winston Garcia was "gambling with the GSIS members' money" when he spent some P50.6 million to acquire the 110-year-old painting. "What right has Garcia to use GSIS funds to purchase the painting?" Rep. Crispin Beltran of Bayan Muna demanded. The money should have been used to increase the benefits of GSIS members, suggested the spokesperson of an association of government workers.

This is loose thinking. The benefits due to government workers and retirees are not going to be reduced, limited or jeopardized by the purchase of the Luna. The GSIS isn't in danger of going bankrupt because of this transaction. If some workers are not getting the benefits they are claiming, that is a separate issue. Garcia has said that the GSIS has P2 billion in excess liquidity. If it has not paid the claims of some government retirees like those from the University of the Philippines, it is for reasons other than a shortage of cash.

Buying works of art has become a form of investment; their value are expected to appreciate over time. Of course, there are risks involved, but they couldn't be worse than buying stocks at this time of great economic uncertainty. If the acquisition of "Parisian Life" was the big gamble that Villar said it was, then it was not only the GSIS that was foolish enough to take it. At least one other person thought the Luna was worth almost as much as what the GSIS paid for it, and helped push its price to more than thrice the floor price set by the international auctioneer Christie's. And presumably that person was buying just another piece of art.

More than just love for a work of art was involved in Garcia's decision to buy the Luna for the GSIS Museum. "We are not buying a masterpiece," he said. "We are buying a piece of history."

That is the heart of the issue. "Parisian Life" is more than just the painting of a master and a national hero, it has history written all over it. While the painting is dominated by a woman whose identity is unknown, in the background are Luna himself, Dr. Ariston Bautista Lin and Jose Rizal in what Christie's described as a "last gathering of great Filipinos on the eve of momentous events."

To some people, the painting may not be a great work of art, but it is certainly a cultural and historic legacy that should not be allowed to pass into the hands of foreign collectors. Sure great Filipino painters deserve to get better international exposure so that they can have their rightful place in the world of art. Sure they deserve to get the kind of material rewards that only the international market can offer. But there are works of art and there are priceless historical legacies. Commerce should distinguish between the two. If this painting has not been officially classified as a cultural treasure, that is not a justification for its sale to foreigners. That is an oversight that needs immediate correction. A nation that bars the export of puka shells and corals can do no less for its cultural treasures.

But for the timely intervention of the GSIS, one such treasure could have been lost to us. For this, it deserves commendation, not condemnation.

North Korea's nukes

FOREIGN COMMENT

IN ASIA, Moscow and Europe, American envoys will be looking for a consensus to block Pyongyang's uranium enrichment program. In Washington, a certain embarrassment has become perceptible regarding (Pyongyang's) late revelations.

Inspection programs and aid to North Korea involve the United States, South Korea, Japan and Europe, and they cannot be brought back into question without dialogue. The American government's approach to the North Korean problem is very different from how it is handling Iraq. The explanation given is that the government in Pyongyang has been weakened by its economic failures, and that it is susceptible to pressures ineffectual in Iraq.

Although there's certainly a consensus among Washington's allies of the danger represented by North Korea's nuclear armament—one that upsets the region's strategic order—Seoul and Tokyo apparently want to move more cautiously than Washington would have hoped.

Le Monde (Paris)

Pinoys bidded against one another at art auction

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I AM happy that Juan Luna's painting "Parisian Life" was bought by a Filipino corporation and will remain on Philippine soil where it belongs. But I fully understand the complaints of members of the Government Service Insurance System against president Winston Garcia for using P50 million of their trust funds to buy the painting, when the GSIS can't even give them, the members, all the benefits due them.

Garcia said the GSIS has an excess liquidity of P20 billion. "We don't know were to invest our money," he said. What's P50 million to invest in a priceless painting by a national hero?

If the GSIS has too much money, why are its members complaining they're not getting enough benefits? Instead, P1 billion of it went to the Public Estates Authority as a loan to pay for the most expensive stretch of road in the world named, ironically, after a man who used his poor beginnings to catapult himself to Malacañang where he preached to the people frugality and thriftiness. Now another P50 million of our money was invested in a painting that won't fill our stomachs, members complain.

Their anger is understandable. Hungry people don't give a hoot about art. The reaction would have been different had it been the Ayala Museum or the Lopez Museum that was able to buy it. They would be spending their own money. But the GSIS spent not the money of Garcia nor its officials but the money of its members, most of whom can't even keep their heads above the poverty level.

Besides, the P50 million to be paid for the painting cannot be called, strictly speaking, an investment like the P1-billion loan to the PEA. The latter will earn interest. And if the PEA is unable to pay, the loan is secured by land in the reclamation area worth, according to estimates, 10 times the amount of the loan.

Of course the Luna painting is priceless. It is probably worth more than the winning bid. But that P50 million will earn only if the painting is sold at a profit. And I don't think Garcia has any intention of selling it. So that painting will be an NPA (non-performing asset).

I know why Garcia wants that now-famous painting. The GSIS has an art museum with a not-so-outstanding collection of paintings and not many people, not even GSIS employees themselves, go there. Luna's "Parisian Life" will now be its crown jewel. With the publicity surrounding it, it now rivals in fame Luna's "Spoliarium" in the National Museum or the "Blood Compact" in Malacañang. Like the "Mona Lisa" attracting people to the Louvre and in the process looking at the other art pieces there, "Parisian Life" will attract Filipinos to the GSIS Museum to look at it out of curiosity, and in the process also look at the other paintings exhibited there.

But there is a bit of irony in the GSIS winning the bidding. The floor price was about P11 million. A three-cornered bidding war drove the price up to P46 million (besides the P46 million, the GSIS will have to pay a premium of 10 percent, driving the total to P50.6 million).

"We made a judgment call," said Garcia. "We will not allow this painting to fall into foreign hands."

If the GSIS had not gone all the way, he said, "we would have been castigated for letting go of a priceless national heritage."

Right. But the irony is that the two other bidders, according to another newspaper report, were also Filipinos. Perhaps, the Ayala Museum or Lopez Museum sent representatives to Hong Kong to bid for the painting too, or the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas which also has a fine art collection. Or taipan Alfonso Yunchengco who is setting up his own art museum in Makati. He paid P11 million for a painting by Carlos V. Francisco without batting an eyelash. He could certainly afford to pay more for Luna's painting. The National Museum should have been at the forefront of efforts to retain the painting here but where will it get the money? The National Museum is never given enough funds to acquire art pieces. Almost all of the art pieces in its collection were donated.

And that's the irony. The Filipinos, not wanting the painting to fall into a foreigner's hands, bidded against one another, perhaps unknowingly, thus driving up the price. After all, the painting is most valuable only to Filipinos, the painter being a national hero and the painting itself a "piece of Philippine history," showing according to Christie's catalogue, three of our heroes in the background—Jose Rizal, Luna and their friend, Dr. Ariston Bautista Lin—huddled in a Paris café.

If the Filipinos had first consulted one another (the same way that private contractors consult one another when bidding for a government infrastructure project) the winner would have paid much less. (The public works contractors, on the other hand, agree to drive the bid prices up.)

A final word about preventing the exportation of the Philippine art pieces. I don't think that can be done under present laws. If the art work is privately owned like the Luna painting—the government cannot stop the owner from selling it. Only when it is already listed as a "national heritage" can the government stop it. Even more famous paintings, like the Van Goghs (at US$36 million?, the most expensive impressionist painting sold at a public auction) could not be stopped by their national governments from being sold because they are already privately owned.

Adoption papers

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

EGGIE Apostol explained it to me this way. Their original plan was to get private groups and individuals to "adopt" deserving students, particularly from impoverished families. Adopting went beyond merely taking care of the financial needs of the students—tuition, books, allowances, etc.—to seeing them all the way through school. It was adopting in the sense of being foster parent to the child, albeit as far as his or her education went. It meant bringing an emotional investment to the monetary one.

They soon realized however that even this wasn't enough. Though it strove to be more holistic than a scholarship program, it failed to reckon with the actual circumstances of the child, which was that (s)he studied, or lived, in a community, which was the school. You improved the condition of individual kids without improving the condition of their schools, and you would not get very far. It would be like helping an urban poor community by gifting one of the families that lived there with a car. You just made it stick out like a sore thumb. The more natural object of succor was the community itself. The more natural object of succor was the school itself.

The point was not to adopt a student, it was to adopt a school.

That is the centerpiece of the "education revolution" which Eggie and her Foundation for Worldwide People Power launched three weeks ago. And which threatens to, well, light a prairie fire in this country, to go by the initial public reactions to it. It puts its philosophy in various ads in newspapers and radio thus: A couple of Edsas later, we seem nowhere near to solving poverty than when we began. We may even be worse off than before. Education, Jose Rizal's proffered solution to the ills of this country, remains as valid as ever, and indeed demands new appreciation and emphasis. Certainly, it demands the attention not just of the government but of all of us. "The call (of the day) is away from politics...and in the direction of education...Education is the best weapon against poverty."

Well, Eggie, who has been recognized many times over nationally and internationally for her heroic contributions to journalism, is no stranger to battling the odds. She is no stranger to succeeding either. She put up the INQUIRER in the deepest night of martial law, which was the early hours before the dawn of Edsa, when it took great risk to do so, and turned it into the No. 1 newspaper in the country. She put up Pinoy Times, a tabloid in Filipino, when previous attempts to publish Filipino-language national newspapers had failed—among them Diyaryo Uno and Diyaryo Filipino—and for one brief shining moment at least turned it into the highest circulation newspaper in the country. At the height of Edsa II, Pinoy Times was racking up a 500,000 daily circulation, and was coming out twice a day to meet demand.

Eggie has a tremendous instinct for an idea whose time has come. Maybe she's got another one now. I wouldn't put it past her.

Intuitively at least, it seems the right thing to do. I myself have been veering in that direction over the past years. I remember writing an article way back in the mid-1990s saying that if I had my way with the budget, I'd put all my marbles on education. It elicited a retort from another columnist who, not being used to my usual hyperboles and exaggerated way of putting things, or ignoring them completely, said that there and then I showed how out of this world I was. You overlooked our more urgent economic priorities, he said, and we would all die before we got educated.

Not at all. At the very least, we're all dying anyway with our kind of economic priorities—paying our foreign debt religiously is chief of them—without getting educated. At the very most, all I'm saying is that we scrimp and save everywhere—I wouldn't mind slashing the PNP and AFP budget to P1; certainly I wouldn't mind slashing the (un)intelligence fund to minus P1—and put all the savings to education. We can't do much about the current teeming masses who have not gone to school, or gone past Grade 3, whose ability to catch up with the rest of the world is now well beyond their grasp. We can only hope to alleviate their plight. But we can—and should—do something about the next generation, who stand to be even more impoverished by the gap that will exist between them and a rapidly changing world—one overrun by giant technological strides every day—if they will not get the best possible education we can give them.

I still think we ought to demand this even as we're looking beyond the government for the solution. If GMA truly cared, she would stop putting up all those silly—and expensive—posters saying "GMA cares" and use the money to improve schools. Or help the rest of the country adopt them.

It is something the poor themselves will appreciate, as I glimpsed recently while having a tire vulcanized. The fellow who was working on my busted tire was grimy and smelled a great deal like the rubber he was turning around in dirty water in a trough. It was backbreaking work, but it was all he knew how to do. He brightened up however and took on a more enthusiastic aspect when his boy alit from a tricycle, clad in khaki shorts and white polo shirt. The boy's clothes were not new, they were frayed on the sides, but they were clean, though now creased with the morning's exertions. His father beamed proudly and told him food was set on the table inside the cardboard shanty at the back of the vulcanizing shop. He himself knew he would do this work all his life, he said to no one in particular, but his boy was in school, he would do other things.

You can always adopt that boy, educationwise. But better if you adopted his school.

Poland in EU, and Asean horizons

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

WARSAW—Poland is taking the lead in organizing 10 Central and Eastern European countries seeking accession to the European Union by calling a summit of the candidates so they could agree on a common stance on terms of accession. Crucial negotiations are under way in Brussels, headquarters of the EU, for their formal entry in 2004 following the ratification by the Irish Republic of the Nice Treaty, which spells out the accession rules.

The ratification lifts the main obstacles to the enlargement of the EU to 25 members, ending more than 50 years of the Cold War division of Europe, reunifying them and sending to the archives the World War II Yalta agreement in which Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin redrew the balance of power in the post-war era.

That Poland is taking the initiative is a natural and logical consequence of its strategic position in Central Europe. Of the 10 candidates, Poland, with 39 million people, has more than half of the total population (74.9 million) of the 10 candidate states. The enlargement will increase the EU's population to 433 million—a large market by any standards, and a prospective area for trade expansion into Central Europe between Poland, acting as the bridge, and Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, if they seek larger economic opportunities from enlargement.

Poland's gross national product is $376.9 billion, more than one-third of the total GDP of the 10, making it the largest economy in Central Europe.

At present, the Polish government is fully preoccupied with the negotiations now on their final phase, so much so that expansion of political and economic relations takes second priority. Some Polish academics describe Poland and the nine other countries as "poor relations of a wealthy family (the current EU members), and the negotiations in Brussels have something to do with the costs which the rich members would defray to lift the economic output of the new entrants, and in particular, subsidize the modernization of their outmoded agriculture. Poland is the leading agricultural producer in Central Europe, and the fears of Polish farmers that they would be swamped by cheap agriculture imports from the richer members are the root of disquiet in Poland and opposition to join the EU, although it has to be said that, according to opinion polls, more than 60 percent of Poles would endorse the accession in a referendum.

The Polish government and even academics and business groups are already casting their eyes toward Asia after accession. Polish trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is pitifully small. In 2001, Poland exported $165.5 million worth of goods to Asean and imported $992.93 million, posting a negative balance of $836.2 million. Its Asean trade was only 1.39 percent of its total foreign trade turnover. In the same year, Poland's exports to the Philippines were worth $65.2 million, and imports were worth $5.1 million (mostly in electronic products and industrial items). Trade with the Philippines was a mere .08 percent of Poland's total trade. The Philippines' share of the trade was the lowest among most Asian countries; Indonesia, 0.23 percent; Malaysia, 0.34 percent. Thailand and Singapore, at 0.27 percent each; and Vietnam, 0.14 percent.

Why the Philippines is nearly at the bottom has something to do with the fact that there is no normal diplomatic relations between Manila and Warsaw. The Philippine Embassy in Warsaw, opened during the Marcos regime, was closed by the successor Philippine government, partly due to cost-cutting when retrenchment of the foreign service was taking place. Granting financial downsizing of our diplomatic representation was the reason, the decision to shut the embassy in Warsaw exhibits not only wrong priorities, if not stupidity. While the Warsaw embassy was closed, embassies with less strategic importance in Central Europe were maintained—such as the embassies in Prague (Czech Republic) and Budapest (Hungary). Without downgrading the importance of Prague and Budapest, it boggles the mind to determine how the Philippine government, the Department of Foreign Affairs especially, made up its priorities in Central Europe.

It need not be belabored that the absence of embassies explains our meager trade relations with Poland and our having been bypassed as destinations of Polish trade delegations that have been visiting Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, if not to sell goods, to explain their case for accession in the European Union.

With the accession of Poland to the EU, the Philippines has to be aware that Poland can be a supplier of hi-tech electronic goods, railways, mining expertise and even military equipment.

Poland was the center of gravity of the Soviet bloc in Central Europe. As the core of the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet response to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Poland had 400,000 troops guarding the central European corridor of the Soviet Empire and had a large defense industry that backed the Warsaw Pact armies. This defense industry is one of the enduring legacies of the Warsaw Pact to post-Cold War democratic Poland. This industry accounts for 30 percent of Poland's economic spending.

I visited some of its armament plants where, officials told us, Poland has modernized and are now producing heavy and medium tanks, armored vehicles, sophisticated missile and radar systems, including those with night vision equipment (similar to that used by the special forces in the Abu Sayyaf campaign), and naval vessels. Officials claim their prices are competitive, and this should give the Armed Forces an idea of exploring wider markets for its modernization program. Malaysia, for example, is buying 42 medium tanks, said to be one of the best in the market. What escapes me is against whom Malaysia is going to use its military armor—which can only roll across the causeway into Singapore.

The teacher exchange

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN "MGA Munting Tinig," Melinda the young schoolteacher decides to leave the small barrio school where she has wrought a transformation to join her mother in the United States. A postscript tells the audience that after some years living in the States, Melinda decided to return to the Philippines where she continues to teach.

Real-life "Melindas" were the focus of a special "Correspondents" report the other night, with Karen Davila piecing together the stories of Filipino public school teachers recruited to teach in American public schools. Opening the show with scenes of tearful parting at the airport, Karen notes that the teachers are bidding farewell "not just to family and friends, but to country as well."

It's a no-brainer deciphering the teachers' reasons for leaving for posting abroad. While a senior teacher earns just a little over P10,000 a month here, in the United States, they stand to earn an average of $4,000 a month, a whopping P200,000 or, as the Math and English teacher Delia Morera points out, "what would take me a year to earn here, I can earn in just half a month there."

With two young daughters for whom she and her husband nurse grand dreams, Delia surely has good reason to seize whatever opportunities fate throws her way. We know Delia has already resisted the call of mere materialism. Unlike so many other teachers and other professionals who abandoned their callings to work as domestics abroad, she chose to stay on at Toro Hills Elementary School. But the opening of teacher positions in American schools offered a most compelling opportunity: the chance to practice one's profession while being most generously compensated for it. Declares a recruiter of teachers, who claims to have led the fight to have the US Congress lift citizenship restrictions on teaching in public schools: "Isn't this preferable to having our schoolteachers leave the country to work as domestics?"

* * *

PREFERABLE, yes. But desirable?

As "The Correspondents" points out, the Philippine public school system already suffers from a severe teacher shortage, the poor compensation being just one reason young people are shunning the profession. As "Mga Munting Tinig" dramatizes, teachers also suffer from a poor self-image, with society judging them as failures, if not muddle-headed idealists.

Previously, I'd written of another TV documentary on a "repatriation" program of the Department of Education for former teachers who'd left the country to work as domestics abroad. Though they were being offered the same standard salaries, many women said they were taking up the offer if only to assuage their loneliness and regain their self-respect. "I want to be called 'Ma'am' again by my students, instead of calling my mistress 'Ma'am,'" more than one returning teacher said.

But what are the chances of these teachers remaining in their posts if the classrooms of America beckon, promising not just 10 times their present wages, but better facilities and more support from authorities?

* * *

IT'S not as if the teachers, the cream of the crop who had to withstand rigorous exams and interviews to be selected for posting, are not aware of the ironies of the situation.

"If only I would receive the same salary here, I would not be leaving at all," says Delia, her eyes brimming with tears. And as the scene of her farewell to her students shows, she clearly considered her work more than just a job.

Even while in Texas, Delia retains her loyalty to Toro Hills Elementary School. She packs her uniforms in her suitcase, planning to wear them to her new assignment in tribute to her old school and in remembrance of her poor students. Another Filipino teacher marvels at the facilities, at the banks of computers available for students' use. But, he points out, there is no difference between the abilities of his Filipino students and their American counterparts. "If only our schools had the same resources," he notes, "our students would be at par with them (Americans) in knowledge."

* * *

THE US government has resorted to recruiting teachers from abroad because their schools likewise face a staffing crisis. Young Americans, too, are shunning the teaching profession, and many schools, especially in rural areas or in run-down and depressed inner city neighborhoods, are finding it increasingly difficult to find teachers.

Watching "The Correspondents," I thought of one possible silver lining in this cloudy scenario.

Filipino parents have long based their preferences for their children's, especially their daughters', college courses on the demands of the US market. The lure of employment in America has always been what pushed enrollment in medicine, nursing, physical therapy, even computer science. Would the possibility of working in US schools encourage enrollment in education courses here as well?

The reality, of course, is that the Philippines is in as much, if not greater, need of doctors, nurses, therapists, computer engineers, and yes, teachers. Which is why it is a tragedy of international proportions that a poor country like the Philippines should end up financing the training of professionals to meet the needs of residents in wealthy countries.

But who can blame them for choosing a better future for themselves and their families? Delia assures that once she has saved enough to finance her family's aspirations, she will return to Toro Hills to teach once more. Maybe then there will be little need for other teachers like her to leave just to become the well-compensated and respected professionals they deserve to be.

Protecting cultural treasures seriously

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

DAMNED if you do, damned if you don't. That's the only way to describe all the commentary on the Luna painting "Parisian Life," acquired by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) for roughly P50 million at the Christie's auction in Hong Kong last Sunday. A week before the auction, the INQUIRER stirred a hornet's nest, first, by raising the question about the irregularities surrounding the exportation of the painting. Not content with that, this was followed by making a private domestic squabble public. The INQUIRER cast doubt on the ownership of the painting by the seller, short of calling the owner a thief, and insisting on this despite a letter to the contrary written by Mercedes Nakpil-Zialcita, one of the ladies (mis)quoted for the front-page story. As I said in my columns last week, all this made very interesting reading but it obscured, what I feel, is the real issue here—protection of cultural property. The INQUIRER ombudsman should really look into the way the story was (mis)handled over the week.

Before the painting was sold, some people who had not even bothered to read the laws covering cultural property expressed the opinion that the painting was a national treasure that should not be exported and sold. Fingers pointed at the Bureau of Customs and the National Museum, calling them inept or incompetent or negligent or all of the above. Nobody bothered to find out that "Parisian Life" is not a designated National or Important Cultural Treasure. The painting could be legally exported and sold provided it had the necessary registration and export permits. What has been overlooked is that neither the owners of the painting or Christie's knew that the problem lay with Lane Movers that declared that the painting was leaving the country "for exhibition" in Singapore and that it would "return to the Philippines." We know that the painting was later shipped to Hong Kong, not for "exhibition" but for sale. There was a possibility that the painting would not return to the Philippines as stipulated by the export permit. The moral of the story? Laws on the export of cultural property were not clear to everyone involved. Christie's has been at the receiving end of bad publicity here. To be fair, maybe we should also look into the dealings of Sotheby's whose country representative, Kim Camacho, happens to be the wife of the finance secretary.

One lesson that we should learn from the brouhaha surrounding the sale of "Parisian Life" is that the first step in protection of cultural property would be to designate them National and Important Cultural Treasures. A survey has to be made of existing public (government) holdings, while someone studies the intricate legal and constitutional aspects of extending the survey and designation to private collections. Let us be more historical and less hysterical if only to realize that there are less than 50 designated National Cultural Treasures at present. Would you believe the "Spoliarium" has not been declared either a National or Important Cultural Treasure?

There were many arguments against the sale of "Parisian Life" in Christie's in Hong Kong, the most persistent was the unfounded fear that the painting would be acquired by a foreigner. I never doubted that the painting would come home because I was sure it would be bought by a Filipino collector. Luna, till this record-breaking sale, has had little or no international market value outside the Philippines and Filipino collectors. I couldn't see what the fuss was about, knowing that some people who expressed their opinions on the issue have not even visited the halls filled with Lunas in the National Museum, and the Lopez Museum. Some people insisted that the painting should remain in the Philippines, in Filipino hands, but if it had ended up in an inaccessible private collection what's the point of keeping it here?

I was mistaken to think that the government wouldn't buy the painting and was pleasantly surprised to hear the news that the GSIS acquired it for its museum. In 1960 the government let 62 Lunas slip away for P500,000. Now, at least, we have bought one painting for P50 million. This should at least teach us that Luna paintings give good returns on investment. Our problem is that "Parisian Life" is not a good investment for the GSIS because it will end up in a museum. It will never be sold, thus it will be a fixed asset in the GSIS books. It will have to be insured, conserved, etc. At least, the painting is now owned by the Filipino people and will be publicly displayed. The controversy should be over. The painting is now owned by the government, the painting will be publicly exhibited, but then the GSIS is now being criticized for the purchase. Obviously, one cannot please all people, all the time.

In countries that take pride in their cultural heritage, like the United Kingdom, money earned from state-run lottery is used to purchase the object. Sometimes, people pitch in and raise the money to keep their cultural heritage in their country. We are not as advanced as that and I am happy the GSIS bought the painting, but then maybe the timing is wrong. I won't dwell on that now. We now have a truly "priceless" painting. For me, the best news is that this controversy is proof of a growing vigilance and appreciation for cultural heritage protection.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

A healthy life

I AM now 74 years old. Recently, I had dinner with my three sons, aged 30 to 46. They had sumptuous selections of the entrées. While I, in contrast, ordered only a simple meal. Pointing to their food and their big bellies, I said they looked unhealthy and might die ahead of me. Jay, my youngest, retorted that our family problem was that I was underfed.

I was priming up to give my sons advice on how I have kept my slim figure, but I was afraid I might sound like an old man dishing out unsolicited advice. So I decided to write this piece. I hope that my sons and their spouses and other young people will read it so that they may know how I have attained a long and healthy life.

HIGH BLOOD

Silverio F. Aquino

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

In doctors' clinics we find posters that show the scales of ideal bodily weights according to age, height and sex. Their message is that everybody should follow his/her ideal weight. At my age and at 5'6", my ideal weight is 135 pounds. Give or take away new pounds, this has been my weight since I got married almost 50 years ago, and helps explain my healthy condition to this day. People should try to stick to their ideal weight.

The main thing in weight control is a good diet. When my sons were young, their mother gave them much good food to help them grow big and strong. In their late 20s, however, and being now on their own, they continued to gorge themselves with large quantities of unhealthy food like they did during our recent dinner. Now they have big bellies. But it is not too late for fat people to heed and benefit from what I say here.

A man's physical condition reaches its peak at age 30 and then recedes. From there on, he needs to watch his diet and start controlling his appetite and his weight. He needs to reduce his consumption of rice and bread and to avoid viands that are salty and fatty. He should now eat more fruits, beans, green and yellow vegetables, fish and other seafood. He should drink more water than he thinks is necessary because water helps in the disposal of body wastes.

My sons do not smoke cigarettes, perhaps because I had set an early example. I like to recall that when my first two boys were small, I was an inveterate cigarette smoker, burning at least two packs a day. I realized I had a duty to live long for my family and stopped the habit. I am convinced that I am alive today because I stopped smoking. Many of my fellow smokers 40 years ago have died, mostly from lung cancer, emphysema and other diseases related to smoking.

Like me, my sons do not drink. It is said that moderate drinking is good for the body, but I have avoided alcohol altogether because of the risk of addiction. You drink a little today, you want some more the next time and then you will still want more.

Avoiding accidents is of course one way of living a long and healthy life. I taught this lesson to my young boys when I refused to buy them a motorcycle, which I thought was a sure cause of fatal accidents. When they were old enough, I taught them safe, courteous and defensive driving. None of them has been involved in a serious vehicular accident. Now, they tell me from the way I drive that I do not know a thing about safe driving.

Sleep and rest are important for a healthy life. Since the body does not store sleep one must sleep at least six hours a day. To older people, an occasional nap is beneficial. If I can afford it, I take a vacation.

Physical exercise is a must for good health. There are enjoyable forms of exercise like ballroom dancing and sex (don't laugh!), but these are not enough to promote good muscle tone, improve blood circulation and promote good health and other benefits.

The problem is that most people are lazy to exercise. Since I am one of them, I usually remain in bed in the morning and do what a baby does: I stretch and flail my arms, kick up my legs and twist my neck and the rest of my body in all directions. I do all these longer and more vigorously than a baby.

Since inevitably, I have to leave my bed, I rise and do some bending exercises, and I jog in place until I feel a stir in my blood and start panting.

Another good form of exercise is washing the car, because it entails much twisting and bending of the body and arms. At least once a week I walk about a mile in our subdivision streets. I go for regular health check-ups. My daughter Zeny, who's a doctor, monitors my health. She checks my blood pressure to make sure it is the normal 120/80. Once every two years I have tests done of my urine, blood, stool and lungs. I follow the advice of Zeny and the cardiologist, internist, gastro-interologist, oncologist and other specialists.

Doctors also advise that one should avoid stress. I suppose stress comes from the bad influences and strains in ones daily life, but since I cannot always understand or identify all that which constitute stress, I try talking to God who, I know, takes good care of us.

Because of advanced medical and health technology, the average life span has risen to 65 years from a low of 30 a century ago. Young people, however, should not rely on statistics and say they would be happy if they will live to be 65. I used to say the same thing when I was 50. Because of what I think were healthy practices in my life, I have lived to 74 and, God willing, I expect to live to be 100.

Silverio F. Aquino, 74, is a lawyer.

THEY SAID

Poverty and politics

"We can never win the fight against poverty unless we change the character of politics."
—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Bias vs Muslims

"The presumption of innocence is overturned. The religious bias against Arabs and Muslims is very patent."
—Michael Mastura, a member of the government peace panel, on the detention of Jordanian Mohammad Amin al Ghaffari on suspicion of being a terrorist

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IRA release bill not needed

SEN. Teresa Aquino-Oreta filed SB No. 875 calling for the direct release or the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) to insulate the release from Malacañang politics and allow local government units (LGUs) to pursue their anti-poverty projects without delay.

I think there is no need for a law to prevent Malacañang from interfering in the release of the IRA to the LGUs.

In 1997 President Ramos issued Administrative Order No. 372 for a 10 percent cut in the IRA. Also in 1998 President Joseph Estrada issued AO 43 slashing the IRA by 5 percent. However, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan questioned their legality. In July 2000, the Supreme Court declared the AOs as unconstitutional. According to the high court, the IRA release is automatic as provided for under Sec. 6, Art. X of the Constitution. Even the Local Government Code of 1991 provides for an automatic release as provided for under Par. (a) Art. 383.

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN,
92 Paraiso St., Parang,
Marikina City

How well do we know our geography?

WHICH Cotabato City? Cotabato City in Maguindanao or Cotabato City in Marawi?

Figure out the above question! Whoever was on duty at the National Statistics Office Helpline last Oct. 10, 2002 at 11:30 a.m. desperately needs some lesson in Philippine geography. But is Philippine geography part of our curriculum? Once in my class in History, a student boldly announced to the class that Cagayan de Oro City is in Cagayan Valley! I just couldn't believe my ears!

With our lawmakers' penchant for gerrymandering and changing names of provinces, cities, streets, etc., who cares if Cotabato City is in Maguindanao and not in the two Cotabato provinces? Who cares if we do not know how many provinces or cities there are in the Philippines? Ask a student or an ordinary citizen what makes a region a region. Do Philippine regions have commonality of ethnic languages and history? Can you consider CAR, ARMM and NCR regions?

It is high time that the Department of Interior and Local Government sit down and discuss why South Cotabato's tail end cuts through Sarangani province. Why are the provinces of the ARMM separated by sea and land? Why are there 13 numbered regions and three unnumbered regions? Why are there only three groups of islands? Could it be possible that we really have four groups of islands? Palawan has 1,169 named and unnamed islands compared to Mindanao's 1,018. Why are the two non-Tagalog provinces like Romblon and Palawan included in Region 4? These issues have to be resolved or else someone in the NSO might tell the public that there is another Cotabato City in Marawi (City).

—DR. SAMUEL P. FERNANDEZ,
Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila

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Sorry for RP athletes in Busan

MY heart aches for Jong Uichico and our hard-working athletes who participated in the 14th Asian Games. Our frustrated heroes are unaware of the real cause of their failures.

While it is true that physical fitness is a big factor in any athletic competition, in our case what is more decisive is the moral influence involved.

How do we stand as a people (not as individuals) against our adversaries? Did we have the uprightness to seek applause and honor in that competition?

Much to my regret my answer to this question is no. We are a corrupt people who value money above anything else. We do not have discipline or gratitude, much less love. Integrity is not found in our vocabulary. We may be physically capable but we are morally bankrupt. Applying the biblical maxim, "The love of money is the root of all evil," we always get evil instead of the gold medals.

—SERGIO M. DIZON,
Mabalacat, Pampanga

A closer look at styrofoam

THIS has reference to the news article "Stop using styrofoam, fast-food restos urged" last Oct. 5, 2002.

The article made several allegations that have long been disproved scientifically and included misinformation that was unfair to the consuming public. In the interest of fair play, allow us to present our side.

"Styrofoam" is a brand name of the DOW Chemical Company of USA for a polystyrene material used as an insulation board in the construction industry. It was first introduced in the Philippines more than 20 years ago and although not used for food service packaging, it has been wrongly used to refer to all foamed polystyrene materials.

Polystyrene (PS) is a thermoplastic material that comes in different shapes and forms. As a foamed material (without the use of CFCs ever since the early 1990s), it is commonly found as a hygienic and efficient packaging material in local groceries and supermarkets and in fast-food restaurants. The superiority of the material is anchored on its features: it doesn't leak and keeps its shape; it keeps hot food hot and cold food cold; it keeps fruits and vegetables fresh and intact; it is an excellent low-cost and sanitary choice for food service packaging; and it protects valuable shipments without adding significant weight.

The basic component of polystyrene is styrene monomer. This is a naturally occurring substance that is found in many food and beverages, including wheat, beef, strawberries, peanuts and coffee beans. Also found in cinnamon, its chemical structure is similar to cinnamic aldehyde. When polystyrene is burned, the thermal decomposition produces a small quantity of carbon dioxide, water vapor and a trace amount of nontoxic ash. Since PS does not contain any chlorine, burning it does not produce any dioxin.

The Japan Environment Agency's "Strategic Programs on Environmental Endocrine Disrupters '98 (SPEED '98)," deleted two of the original 67 substances listed as "chemicals suspected of causing endocrinological disruption." These were styrene dimers and trimers and n-butylbenzene.

It was determined that with regard to the various chemical substances that make up styrene dimers and trimers, there is no scientific basis for estimating risk at the present time.

Giant fast-food chains are said to produce the most sizable amount of garbage. Again, the facts are misleading. In a waste characterization study for Metro Manila done by the Japan International Cooperation Agency in 1997, total plastics waste amounted to only approximately 17 percent of the total municipal solid waste. Breaking it down further, polystyrene foam packaging for food was only one-eighth of one percent by weight and approximately 1.5 percent by volume. The figures assume that all polystyrene fast-food containers are thrown into landfills and all production is sold in Metro Manila.

—TONY CHIONG,
secretary general, Polystyrene Packaging Council of the Philippines Inc.,
Room 900-1, Victoria Bldg.,
429 UN Ave., Ermita, Manila

Following up news leads, rumors

A NATIONAL broadsheet carries a regular feature on the lapses of government officials. Often, the alleged lapses are immoral and corrupt. But the culprit is not identified, only described.

The government agencies who could do something about the misdeeds, like the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police, Office of the Ombudsman and the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption can get their identities through either the news writers of the broadsheet or do their own sleuthing.

—T.B. ABAYAN,
13-A Banning St.,
North Fairview, Quezon City

Don't begrudge OFWs the right to vote

HAVE you worked in a construction site in Iraq with the whole country enveloped by war clouds?

Have you spent years moving cargo and freight through lonely Saudi roads oftentimes without sleep for 24 straight hours just to beat a delivery deadline? At times, worn down by fatigue, you take a quick nap on an isolated roadside where the next gasoline station is at least 50 kilometers away.

Have you experienced operating a giant crane on top of a Saudi construction site and being locked up in your crane at that height for days?

All of these I have experienced in my more than a dozen years as an overseas contract worker. I admit that it was more for my family and less for the country. But in my stay there, I have bank records to prove that in my own small way I helped bail out the country during times of dollar scarcity.

At any given time, there are more than 7 million overseas Filipinos, according to Sen. Edgardo Angara, who labor hard to help prop up the economy, though, admittedly, their stay abroad is more motivated by a sense of family than a sense of country. But no matter. In the course of helping their families, the OFWs pump in the needed hard currency to their country, a life-support system to the economy.

It is in this context that I wrote this letter. I cannot but react to people saying that Angara's effort to pass the absentee voting bill bill is a useless exercise because the money for the absentee voting could be better used elsewhere. This is a basic right and it has been denied to people who are called "modern-day heroes," and critics are still talking of the pittance that would be spent for putting in place a law on absentee voting.

In this country some mind-sets are extremely cruel. Like the one saying that the absentee vote is not deserved by overseas workers and overseas Filipinos. Or, it is a waste of money and effort. I can only hope the good senator is not discouraged by such.

—EDUARDO LAXAMANA,
Purok 6, Barangay Concepcion,
Lubao, Pampanga

Consider the Guinayangan school district

THE FOUNDATION for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP) launched an Education Revolution to help solve the country's problems in education. This is a great, timely shift for civil society groups that are, by and large, involved in political maneuverings to gain sympathy for their political causes, if not for personal fame and glory. The FWWPP is different: instead of confrontation with the highest authorities in the government, it is coming down to the barangay level of education to help in the upliftment of the school teachers and schoolchildren, and from this grass-roots level on toward the municipal, then provincial and finally, to the city's educational standards. Whatever positive changes may occur in the concerned school will hopefully spill over the social, economic and political milieu of the concerned barangay.

The wholistic approach of the foundation to the problems of the school will certainly not only accumulate data for scholarly evaluation to see the school's problems at their most basic and their corresponding solutions.

The school district of Guinayangan, Quezon has had some good experiences in partially solving some problems in the education of our youth here with the help of some good politicians, NGOs, PTAs and Guinayangan folk now residing in the United States.

The district supervisor, principals, teachers and parents can only accomplish so much within the limits of their meager resources. The FWWPP could do well to look into the Guinayangan school district and its humble achievements thus far and consider how these can be brought farther and improved more for all our good.

—CONRADO L. TUPAS,
president, PTA League,
Guinayangan, Quezon

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PNP asks DOJ to go easy on lifestyle check on all cops

By TJ Burgonio

WHILE they welcomed it, top police officials yesterday said the top-to-bottom lifestyle check on police officers proposed by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez could not be done haphazardly.

"I think that is a welcome move. We welcome that in the PNP," newly-promoted Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, chief of the directorial staff, said during a press briefing.

Gil, however, stressed the need for the PNP command staff to tackle the matter before it's implemented.

"We have yet to discuss that in one of our staff conferences. It doesn't mean that we have to do it immediately," he said.

He said he would also suggest during the staff meeting that the statements of assets and liabilities (SALs) of police officials be made public, an idea that some police officials are not comfortable with.

"Maybe we can do that also, but this is subject for approval. I think we must be open, we will discuss that some other time," he said.

Some reporters had earlier requested copies of top officials' SALs, but Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. rejected this for a still unknown reason, saying "Find copies somewhere else."

Months ago, some officials were among those reported to have made millions of pesos of investments in pyramid scams.

Perez had proposed that apart from politicians and government officials, policemen—from police officer 1 to director general—should be subject to lifestyle check by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC).

It's agri research week

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has declared the period from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1 as International Agricultural Research Week.

In Proclamation No. 279 which she signed on Oct. 24, the President said there is a need to focus more attention on the important role played by agricultural research in national progress, development and poverty alleviation.

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is holding its annual general meeting in the Philippines for the first time from Monday to Friday.

The meeting brings together more than 500 local and foreign scientist-delegates.

The CGIAR is a global alliance of investors, 16 international research institutes known as Future Harvest Centers, 58 member-countries from both developing and industrialized countries and other partner organizations which mobilize science to benefit the poor.

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SS Gas A/T-Limited Edition 2	800,000	130,000	31,644	22,427	15,510
SS Diesel-Limited Edition 2	765,000	128,000	30,259	21,446	14,831
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GLX M/T	620,000	109,000	24,524	17,381	12,020
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A/T (INVECS II)	710,000	107,000	28,084	19,904	13,765
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322,500	26,875	17,917	13,438	9,616	7,657	6,639
349,000	30,029	20,611	16,400	11,623	9,254	8,034
356,500	30,265	20,772	16,533	11,717	9,330	8,098
400,000	33,333	23,051	18,351	13,006	10,355	8,988
382,500	31,875	22,268	17,724	12,561	10,001	8,681
310,000	26,761	18,368	14,614	10,358	8,247	7,160
340,000	28,333	18,889	14,167	10,398	8,279	7,181
355,000	29,583	19,722	15,888	11,261	8,966	7,780
395,000	33,576	23,045	18,342	12,999	10,350	8,984
357,500	30,622	21,017	16,725	11,854	9,436	8,193
362,500	31,075	21,328	16,972	12,029	9,577	8,314

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Putin seeks new anti-terror plans

MOSCOW—President Vladimir Putin on Monday ordered the military to draw up new anti-terror plans as Russia mourned the victims of last week's hostage drama in a Moscow theater in which 117 hostages died, almost all of them poisoned by an unknown gas.

Flags around the country flew at half-mast and entertainment shows were pulled from the schedules to honor the dead from the three-day hostage-taking by Chechen rebels.

The guerrillas, including women armed with explosives, grenades and automatic weapons, burst into the theatre Wednesday evening during a performance of a hit musical and took more than 800 members of the audience hostage.

Urging Putin to agree to peace negotiations, Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov warned that more attacks like the brutal Moscow hostage-taking were inevitable unless a political solution was found.

In an interview, he firmly denied any involvement in the hostage drama.

Of the 117 hostages who died, 115 succumbed to the effects of a gas pumped into the theater by special forces ahead of an assault during which 50 Chechen hostage-takers also died.

While Moscow maintained a wall of silence around the precise nature of the gas, a top medical official said "sarin or other poison gases" were not used but rather an "anesthetizing gas used in surgery."

As questions lingered over the use of the gas, Putin sought to keep attention focused squarely on the Chechens' tactics and away from the hostage death toll which could continue to climb.

He ordered his generals to draw up new plans against what he termed "increasingly bold, more cruel" methods used by "terrorists."

"If anyone tries to use such methods against our country, Russia will retaliate with appropriate measures against terrorists and their ideological and financial backing wherever they may be," Putin said in televised remarks.

"Russia will never make any deals with terrorists and will never give in to blackmail," Putin vowed.

Moscow maintained its hardline position on the war in Chechnya, announcing that Putin had cancelled a visit to Denmark to protest Copenhagen's decision to allow an international conference on Russia's breakaway southern republic to be held in the Danish capital.

"The conference is organized and financed by Chechen terrorists, accomplices and patrons from al-Qaida who, as is now absolutely clear, were behind the awful terrorist act in Moscow. In the circumstances, the planned visit of the Russian president to Denmark cannot go ahead," the foreign ministry said.

Public reaction to the rescue operation has been largely positive despite the rising death toll, encouraged by insistent television coverage that has presented the outcome as a triumph for Russia's special forces. *AFP*

US, UK defend assault on hostage-takers

PARIS—The United States and Britain, bound by their hardline stance against terrorism, on Monday defended Moscow's handling of a hostage crisis that left 117 captives dead, as Germany said the Chechen war should be brought to the fore in EU talks.

State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher stressed that the entire incident had been caused by Chechen terrorists and expressed sympathy for the Russian government in the circumstances.

"We underscore that this tragedy was caused by an act of terrorism," he told reporters. "The Russian government was faced with a difficult dilemma as a result of this cruel terrorist act."

"There was no easy way out of this situation, in which armed terrorists were threatening the lives of so many people."

Boucher also reiterated the long-standing US call for the Chechen dispute to be settled politically and not militarily.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair also refrained from criticizing Russian President Vladimir Putin, even as scrutiny mounted across the globe over the use of an unidentified gas that killed all but two of the 117 hostages.

The bomb attacks in Bali, the siege in Moscow and the murder of an American diplomat in Jordan were part of a "horrifying" new brand of terrorism, he said, adding, "a deadly mixture of religious and political fanaticism is being pursued by those who have no compunction about taking human life, no matter how innocent, and little about losing their own."

"The only answer is both to defeat them by security, intelligence and policing, but also to take head on, especially within the Muslim world, their perversion of Islam in the cause of extremism," he said.

Special forces stormed a Moscow theater early Saturday, ending a three-day siege and killing 50 Chechen rebels, including women strapped with explosives.

On the subject of Chechnya, Blair's spokesperson said: "Obviously there has to be some kind of political settlement but you have to have people on the other side willing to engage in a discussion." *AFP*

Forensic DNA testing refined

SYDNEY—An Australian-based scientist announced on Tuesday he had refined forensic DNA testing so that an individual can be identified by a single cell.

Scotsman Ian Findlay, from the Australian Genome Research Facility at the University of Queensland, said his new testing technique compared with current DNA testing that required 200 to 500 cells to gain a similar level of accuracy.

"What we have done is brought that down to one cell," Findlay said after releasing details of his new DNA testing technique at a Sydney conference.

Findlay said his new technique was much faster than current testing, enabling thousands of cells to be DNA tested every day.

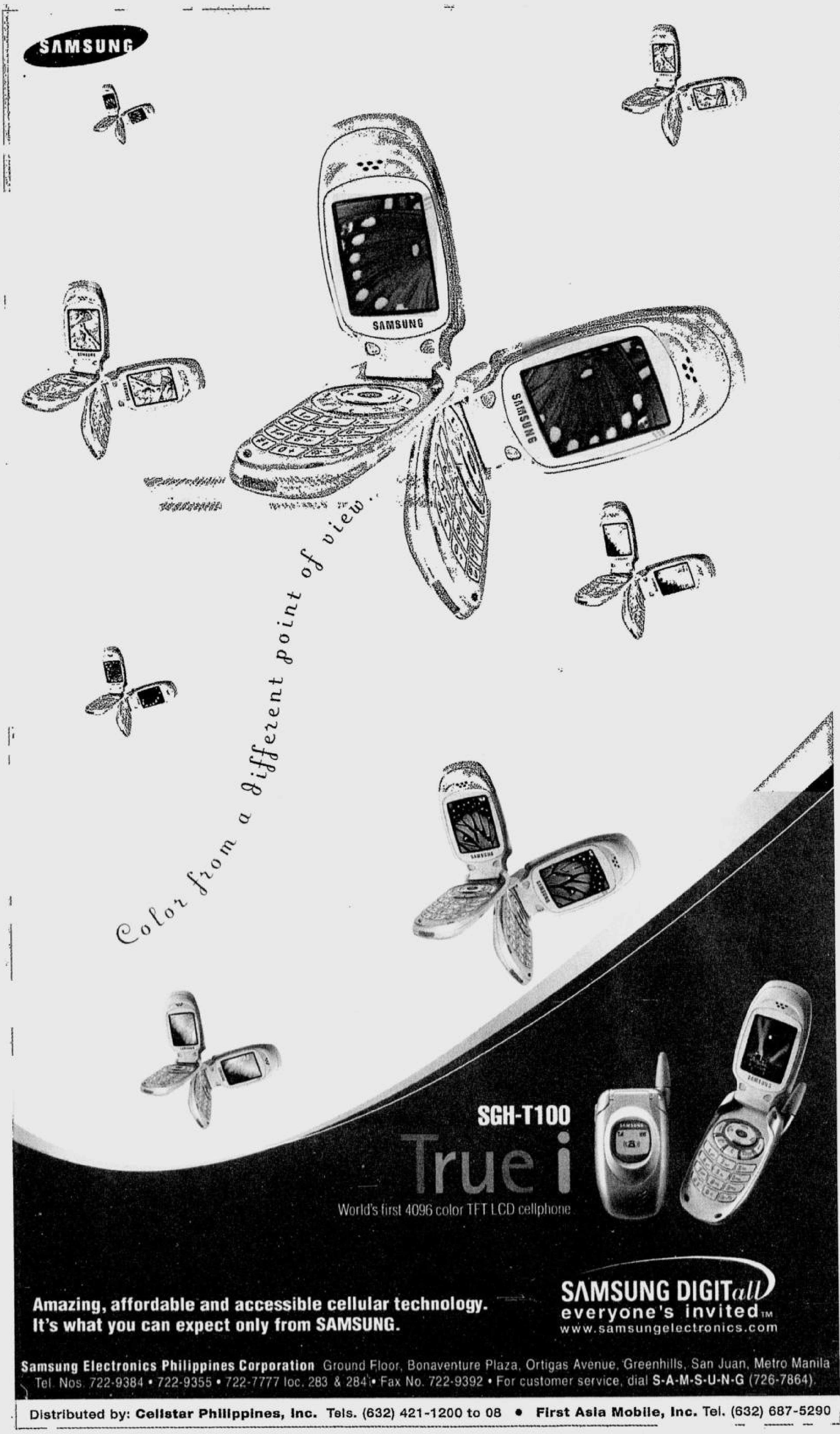
He said the ability to identify accurately DNA from one cell meant previously unsolved crimes dating back decades may now be solved. He said a sheet of paper carrying one cell, or a single flake of dandruff, would now be enough to identify a person.

"We gained a skin cell from a document dating back 30 years and managed to gain a DNA fingerprint. DNA evidence can remain fresh for decades, perhaps even centuries," Findlay said.

"The potential for this technology to solve unsolved crimes or exonerate the innocent is enormous," he said.

But Findlay, named scientist of the year in 1998 by the European Society of Human Genetics, said the new DNA testing needed to be scientifically validated, which would take three to five years.

"There are serious consequences taking on technologies too early. The public has to be sure that they have the utmost confidence in the security and court systems," he said. *Reuters*



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Student gunman kills 3 teachers in Arizona

TUCSON—A student flunking out of the University of Arizona nursing school shot three of his professors to death, then killed himself as dozens of terrified students rushed to get away.

Police said Robert Flores Jr., 41, specifically targeted the instructors, killing one in her office on the second floor and shooting the others in a fourth-floor classroom as students dove for cover. Flores told students in the room to leave and was later found dead by officers searching the school.

Students who were in the classroom said Flores entered carrying a gun. He approached instructor Cheryl McGaffic in the front of the room and told her "he was going to give her a lesson in spirituality," witness Laura Kelley said.

Flores shot McGaffic, 44, in the chest, then shot her twice more as she lay on the ground. Among McGaffic's areas of study was the relationship between health and spirituality.

Flores then walked to the back of the room and shot 45-year-old Barbara Monroe as she lay curled behind a desk.

"He asked her if she was ready to meet her maker," said Gena Johnson, another student. "She said 'Yes,' and then he shot her once and then twice more."

University Vice Provost Elizabeth Irvin said Flores had failed a pediatric nursing class and was struggling in a critical care class.

Bomb squad members were called in after a backpack or package was found underneath the gunman's body. The suspect had threatened to blow up the building, though it was unclear when the threat was made, police said. The college and nearby buildings were evacuated.

Authorities continued to check for explosives into the evening.

Police identified the third victim as Robin E. Rogers, 50. All the victims were Flores' instructors, Police Chief Richard Miranda said.

"It's too soon to say why he committed this terrible deed," Miranda said. "We have determined that there are many issues in Mr. Flores' life, all of which are a factor."

Flores, a Gulf War veteran, worked at the Southern Arizona Veterans Administration Health Care System as a licensed practical nurse, and was studying to become a registered nurse, officials said.

Anu Nigam, a 29-year-old graduate student, said she and her husband were outside waiting for a bus when a woman came out of the building screaming that there was a man with a gun in the university.

"A group of people were crying and running desperately to get out of the building," Nigam said. "They were crying, tripping over one another, falling down." *AP*

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Sniper attacks suspects linked to 2 shootings

TACOMA—Two suspects charged in the rash of recent East Coast sniper attacks were linked by authorities to the murder of a Tacoma woman last winter, and a shooting at a synagogue.

Tacoma Police Chief David Brame said Monday that John Allen Muhammad, 41, and John Lee Malvo, 17, are suspects in the killing of 21-year-old Keenya Cook. She was shot in the face Feb. 16 when she opened the door at the house where she lived.

Brame said a man contacted the FBI last week and told authorities he'd allowed Muhammad and Malvo to borrow his weapons, including a .45-caliber semiautomatic handgun, while the pair were staying with him earlier this year.

Investigators recovered three handguns and two rifles from the man, including two allegedly used in the crimes, Tacoma police spokesperson Jim Mattheis said. Ballistics tests confirmed that both weapons were used in separate shootings, he said.

"As a result, we now consider John Allen Muhammad and John Lee Malvo as suspects in the Keenya Cook homicide," Brame said.

Mattheis has said Cook's family recognized Muhammad from news photos after his arrest in the sniper cases and called authorities. The man who provided police with the weapons also "came forward after the news coverage," Mattheis said. "He's been very cooperative."

Cook's aunt, Isa Nichols, used to be a bookkeeper for Muhammad's auto repair business in the 1990s. Nichols became friends with Muhammad and his then-wife Mildred, and sided with Mildred during that couple's bitter divorce and child-custody dispute, officials said.

Cook had moved into Nichols' home in the fall of 2001 for protection from an abusive boyfriend. Members of Cook's family wondered if Isa Nichols was the intended target and that Cook was shot by mistake when she opened the door.

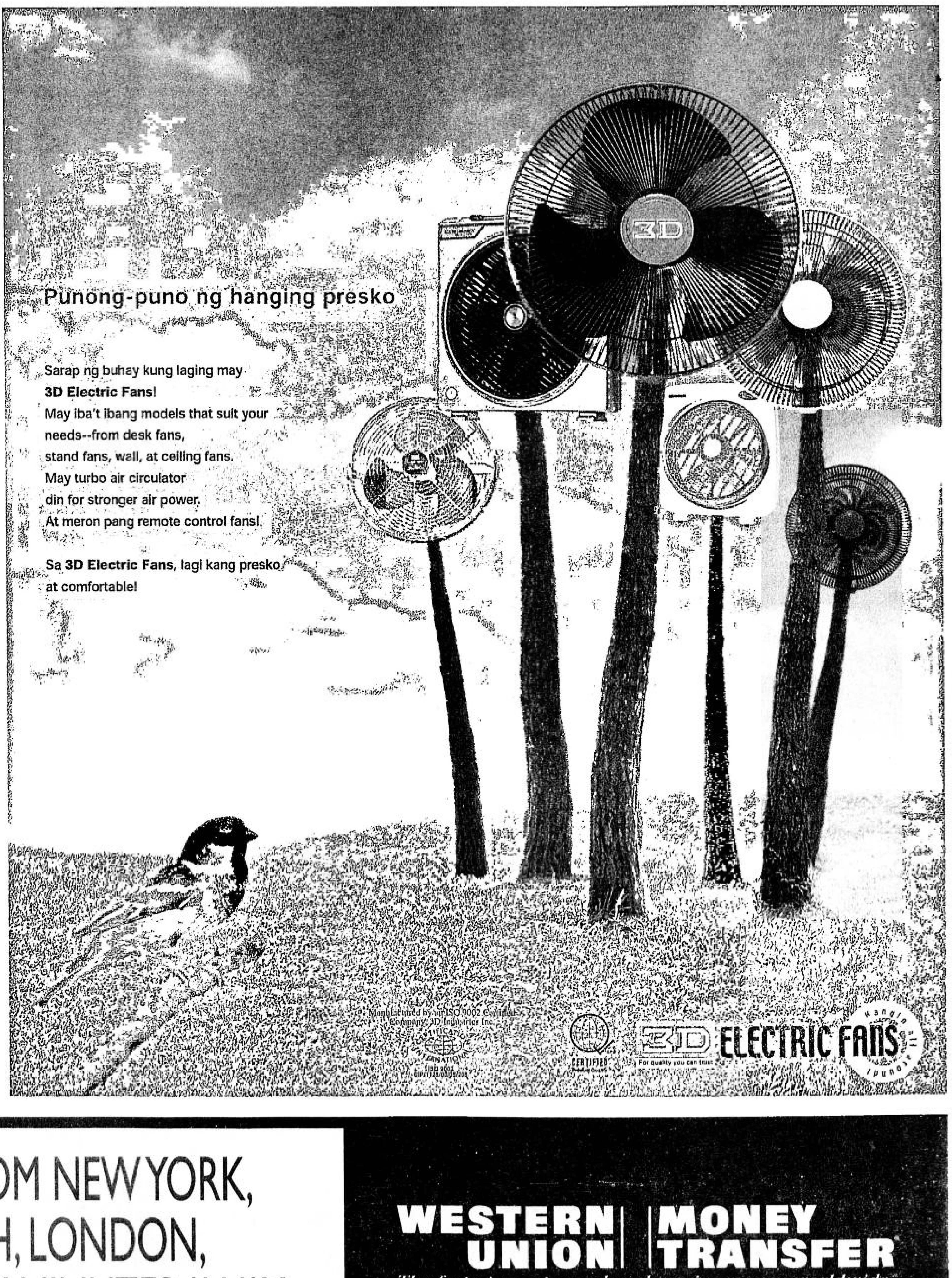
In the synagogue case, Brame said a .44-caliber Magnum, borrowed from the same man, was used in a shooting at Temple Beth El between May 1 and May 4. No one was believed at the synagogue at the time.

Brame said there are no plans to charge the man who came forward.

Muhammad was in the Army at Fort Lewis beginning in 1985 and lived in Tacoma off and on after he was honorably discharged from the Army in 1994.

The Tacoma police informant told officers Muhammad and Malvo stayed with him occasionally between February and April of this year, then became full-time guests at his home from May until July.

In the East Coast cases, the pair now face murder charges in both Virginia and Maryland in the three-week series of attacks that killed 10 people and wounded three. Alabama has charged them in a killing during a robbery. No decision had been made yet on federal charges. *AP*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SPY AGENCY REPORT

N. Korea has 4,000 tons of bio arms, 3 nuke bombs

SEOUL—North Korea possesses some 4,000 tons of biochemical weapons and has built as many as three crude nuclear weapons, South Korea's intelligence agency chief told lawmakers.

In testimony to the parliament's Intelligence Committee Monday, Shin Kun, director of the National Intelligence Service, said the North was capable of producing some 4,500 tons of weapons annually.

Pyongyang began its biochemical weapons programme about four decades ago. "The North is believed to have a stockpile of between 2,500-4,000 tons of biochemical weapons," an opposition Grand National Party (GNP) lawmaker, Lee Yoon-Sung, quoted Shin as saying here Tuesday.

"We are unable to judge how powerful those biochemical weapons are as we have yet to confirm the accuracy of their delivery systems and whether the North has made those weapons compact enough to deliver."

Echoing what US officials have said of the North's nuclear development program, Shin said Pyongyang could already own as many as three crude nuclear weapons.

The weapons would have been built using some seven to 22 km of plutonium the North is believed to have extracted before it opened nuclear facilities to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections in 1992.

"We don't have any information on how much enriched uranium the North might have. South Korea and the United States have been closely following this program," he said.

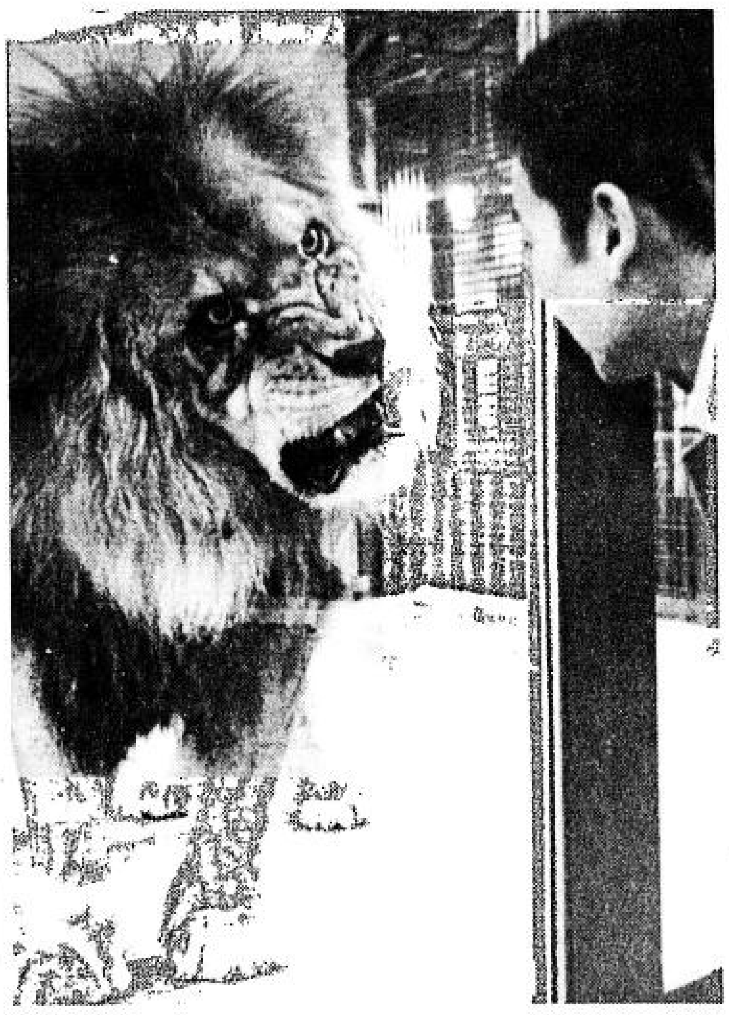
A disclosure by Washington that Pyongyang admitted it was secretly developing nuclear weapons and considered the 1994 Agreed Framework "nullified" alarmed South Korea and Asian neighbors, and prompted the United States to demand an "immediate and verifiable" scrapping of the program.

But Pyongyang, which denied that US envoy James Kelly had presented evidence of such a program during an Oct. 3-5 visit, said the envoy's trip showed the Bush administration wanted to stifle it by force and put brakes on rapprochment on the Korean peninsula.

North Korea charged Washington itself had violated the deal, under which Pyongyang had pledged to freeze its atomic ambitions, by threatening it with nuclear weapons and listing the country as part of an "axis of evil" with Iraq and Iran.

Pyongyang last week offered to resolve US concerns over nuclear weapons in return for a non aggression pact, but rejected Washington's bottom line that it end its nuclear weapons development before talks could begin.

In a bid to head off the US-led international pressure, North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on Tuesday introduced a Japanese academic' report on US germ warfare during the 1950-53 Korean War. *AFP*



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Visitors take a close look at a lion through a 3-centimeter tempered glass at Maruyama Zoo in Sapporo, Japan's northern island of Hokkaido Monday, Oct. 28.

Fighting rages in Central Africa capital

BANGUI—Fighting raged in the Central African Republic (CAR) capital, Bangui, on Monday as rebels aiming to topple President Ange Felix Patasse closed in on parliament buildings and government forces tried to fend them off.

"Bozize's men are trying to take up position around the National Assembly, and the other side is trying to stop them," one eye-witness said.

Fighting broke out Friday as insurgents loyal to sacked army chief Francois Bozize launched their coup attempt.

The National Assembly is located in the center of Bangui.

After an overnight lull in the fighting, an AFP correspondent reported Monday morning hearing heavy weapons fire coming from the vicinity of Bangui's presidential palace, aimed mainly at rebel positions in the north of the capital.

By early afternoon, the fighting had spread to several neighbourhoods in Bangui. An AFP correspondent reported seeing a mortar hit a target near his home, killing two civilians. He was later forced to flee his home as the fighting moved closer.

A source close to the CAR authorities said Bozize's forces are heavily armed. The source intimated that they had been equipped by neighboring Chad.

Opposition leaders in Chad said Monday the government of President Idriss Deby was behind the unrest in CAR, which they called an attempt to destabilize their southern neighbor.

Relations have been tense between the two central African countries since Bozize fled to Chad last year, after being accused by the CAR government of hatching a plot to oust Patasse.

The impoverished, landlocked former French colony has been plagued by coups and frequent changes of government, nearly all of them military, since independence in 1960. *AFP*

CIA doubts US ability to clear threat of future attacks

WASHINGTON—The US Central Intelligence Agency has warned that US counterterrorist operations around the world may not eliminate the threat of future attacks because they fail to address the root causes of terrorism, according to new documents.

In an unusual display of candor, the CIA pointed out that continued instability in Afghanistan, challenges facing Saudi rulers and the festering Israeli-Palestinian conflict were likely to fuel radicalism in the Muslim world.

The grim assessment was made in a series of written answers to questions posed by members of the US Congress last April that were released to the general public on Monday.

It is likely to reinforce the emerging view that the CIA may have had a falling out with some members of the administration of President George W. Bush on key foreign policy issues.

Earlier this month, CIA Director George Tenet caused a stir here by predicting that, if cornered, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was more likely to resort to weapons of destruction—the very outcome a proposed US invasion of Iraq is meant to ward off.

But as the administration continued to flesh out plans to use Iraqi dissidents in toppling the Baghdad government, the CIA cautioned in its answers to lawmakers that the Iraqi army remains "capable of defeating more poorly armed internal opposition groups."

As for hopes that members of the Iraqi elite will revolt against Hussein as soon as the United States launches an invasion, the agency pointed out that senior Iraqi officials "view their fortunes as tied to Saddam and their allegiance is probably bolstered by the regime's decade long propaganda campaign against UN sanctions and the West."

The CIA has been at the forefront of the war on terror launched by Bush in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks blamed on Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network.

But as it ferreted out terrorist cells, the agency appeared to sound a pessimistic note about the general direction of the effort.

"While we are striking major blows against al-Qaida—the preeminent global terrorist threat, the underlying causes that drive terrorists will persist," the CIA said.

"Several troublesome global trends—especially the growing demographic youth bulge in developing nations whose economic systems and political ideologies are under enormous stress—will fuel the rise of more disaffected groups willing to use violence to address their perceived grievances," it added.

More than 1,300 Islamic radicals suspected of association with al-Qaida have been arrested in over 70 countries since the beginning of the war on terror, according to US officials.

These successes notwithstanding, the CIA expressed doubt about the US ability to stabilize Afghanistan and choke off terrorist finances any time soon. *AFP*

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US diplomat shot dead outside home in Jordan

AMMAN—A US diplomat was shot dead Monday outside his home in US ally Jordan amid rising regional turmoil, with Amman branding the killing a "treacherous assassination" and the US embassy an "incomprehensible act."

Ambassador Edward Gnehm said in Jordan that Washington "will not rest" until the killers of Laurence Foley are found, as officials in the US capital said evidence recovered from the scene of the murder suggested a political motive.

The shooting, amid rising hostility in the region to Washington's threats to neighboring Iraq, set off alarm bells at the embassy, which immediately urged US nationals to be "vigilant in view of threats to American interests." "We will not rest until they (the killers) are found," Gnehm told a press conference in the highly-fortified US embassy in western Amman, his voice choking with emotion.

"We are working closely with the Jordanian authorities to apprehend the person or persons responsible for this crime," he said, branding the killing an "evil and cowardly act."

Foley, a supervisor with the US Agency for International Development (USAID), was shot several times outside his home in another area of western Amman early Monday as he prepared to go to work.

Police, citing an autopsy report, said he was hit by several bullets.

Sources close to the investigation in Jordan told AFP the 62-year-old diplomat was probably killed by a professional using a gun equipped with a silencer.

"The assassin probably used a silencer, which would explain why none of the Foley family's neighbors heard any gunshots," one of the sources said.

His comments contradicted earlier reports that gunfire had been heard by the diplomat's wife before her discovery of her husband's bullet-riddled body.

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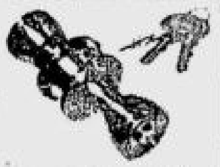

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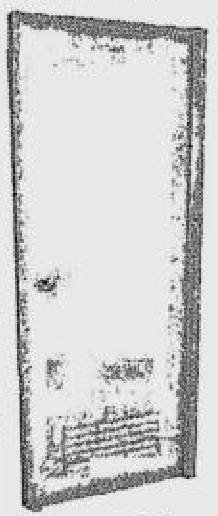

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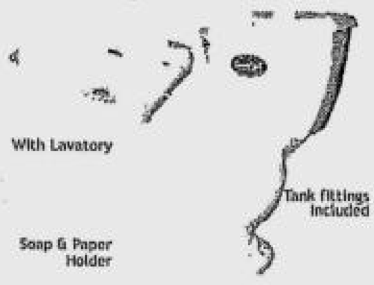

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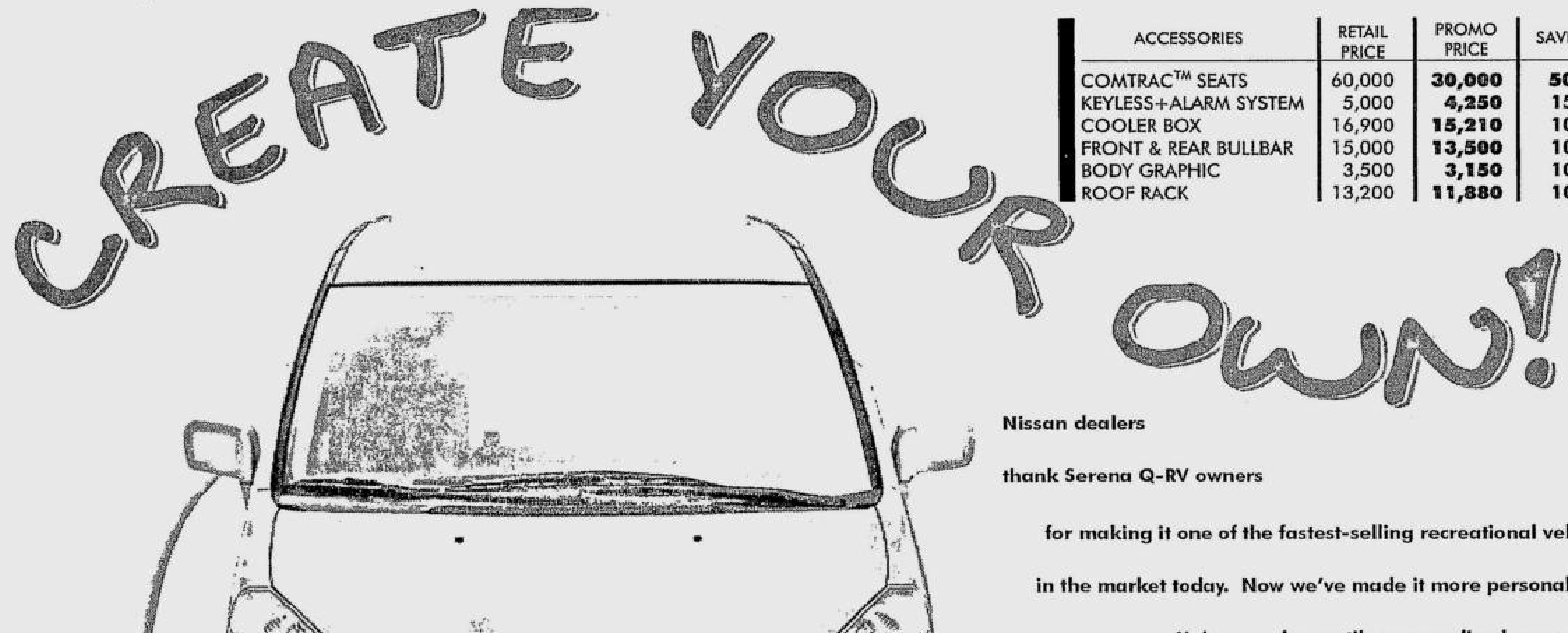

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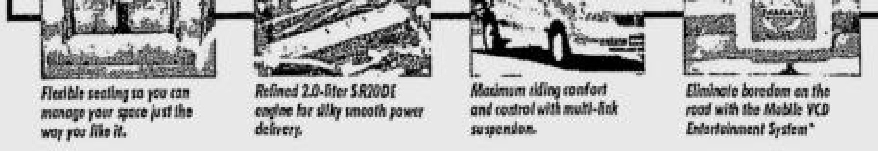

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Army camp faces ouster from Cebu property

CEBU CITY—The Central Command (CentCom) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) might end up becoming a squatter if the Cebu provincial government succeeds in its move to recover lots donated to the AFP by previous administrations.

The Cebu Provincial Board on Monday passed a resolution, authorizing Gov. Pablo Garcia to take appropriate action to recover an 81-hectare property in Barangay Lahug, which is being used as the CentCom Headquarters called Camp Lapulapu.

The province will not even bother to look for a relocation site for the CentCom.

Vice Gov. John Gregory Osmeña, head of the committee on provincial property, sponsored the resolution that amended the 1994 board resolution, authorizing the province to recover 33 parcels of lots donated to the CentCom, which was then called the Visayas Command.

These 33 parcels, or more than half of the 81-hectare property, were not used the then Viscom as they were outside Camp Lapulapu's perimeter fence.

The CentCom is only using 14 parcels of land. But in the new resolution, the 14 parcels of land will also be included in the recovery.

During the session, provincial attorney Marino Martinquilla said Capitol decided to take back even the used portion of the property because of the CentCom's inaction on the previous board resolution.

"They have a passive attitude on this issue. (The) Viscom has taken for granted the actions of the province. The contract was violated so the province will have to take back the property," Martinquilla said.

The provincial government will be filing in court a case for recovery of possession, he added.

Martinquilla said the Capitol does not have to look for a relocation site for the CentCom once it is kicked out of the property.

But board member Jose Ma. Gastardo said the law prohibits the driving out of squatters without a relocation site.

"We have to provide because if we drive out CentCom, they will become squatters," said board member Antonio Almirante.

But Martinquilla said the law only applies to "natural persons." *Kathy Navarro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Iloilo traders to pool funds for war on terrorism, crimes

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Business leaders and some affluent Ilonggos have appealed to their colleagues to contribute to a fund that may help prevent the occurrence of kidnapping and other forms of terror.

In a community conference held on Sunday and attended by some 500 business persons, professionals and members of the Ilonggo-Chinese community, an appeal had been made for contributions to buy patrol cars, guns, cell phones and to raise funds to support the city's police units.

Among those who made an appeal is Bombo Radyo chief executive officer Rogelio Florete, who was a kidnapping victim in 1989.

He said Ilonggos should close ranks and prevent the occurrence of kidnappings because it is "a sad and tragic event."

The gathering at Amigo Hotel came a few days after the release of kidnapping victim Jefferson Tan on Oct. 23. Tan, 13, was abducted Oct. 15.

Arrests

Police arrested at least 10 suspects. No ransom was paid, said the police.

The community meeting ended without anyone making a pledge of financial support, raising concerns that the conservatism of Ilonggos prevailed over the appeal to fight criminality through funds.

Rowena Regalado, executive director of the Iloilo Business Club, said the pledges would be made discreetly and behind closed doors.

During the conference, Florete recounted some of his experiences when he was abducted for 72 days. For fear of his life, he cooperated with his captors who brought him to the hinterlands of Negros Occidental.

It was the first time that he probably recalled his ordeal in public.

Florete did not relate the entire story of his abduction though, only some details spiced with anecdotes, to the dismay of some people in the audience.

He spent time making an appeal for cooperation and support for crime prevention.

Briefing

Participants in the community meeting were briefed on how the police deal with bomb threats and kidnap-for-ransom and steps that the families of kidnap victims should take. Leaflets of tips and police hotlines were also given out.

During the open forum, questions were raised on how fast could police officers respond to cases and whether or not they could be trusted.

But Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro Jr., police director for Western Visayas, told the audience that they just have to trust the men in uniform.

He added that a big majority of the members of the police force are dedicated professionals and only a few are bad eggs.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas promised to hire auxiliaries to boost the visibility of the local police and install streetlights in some unlighted areas in the city.

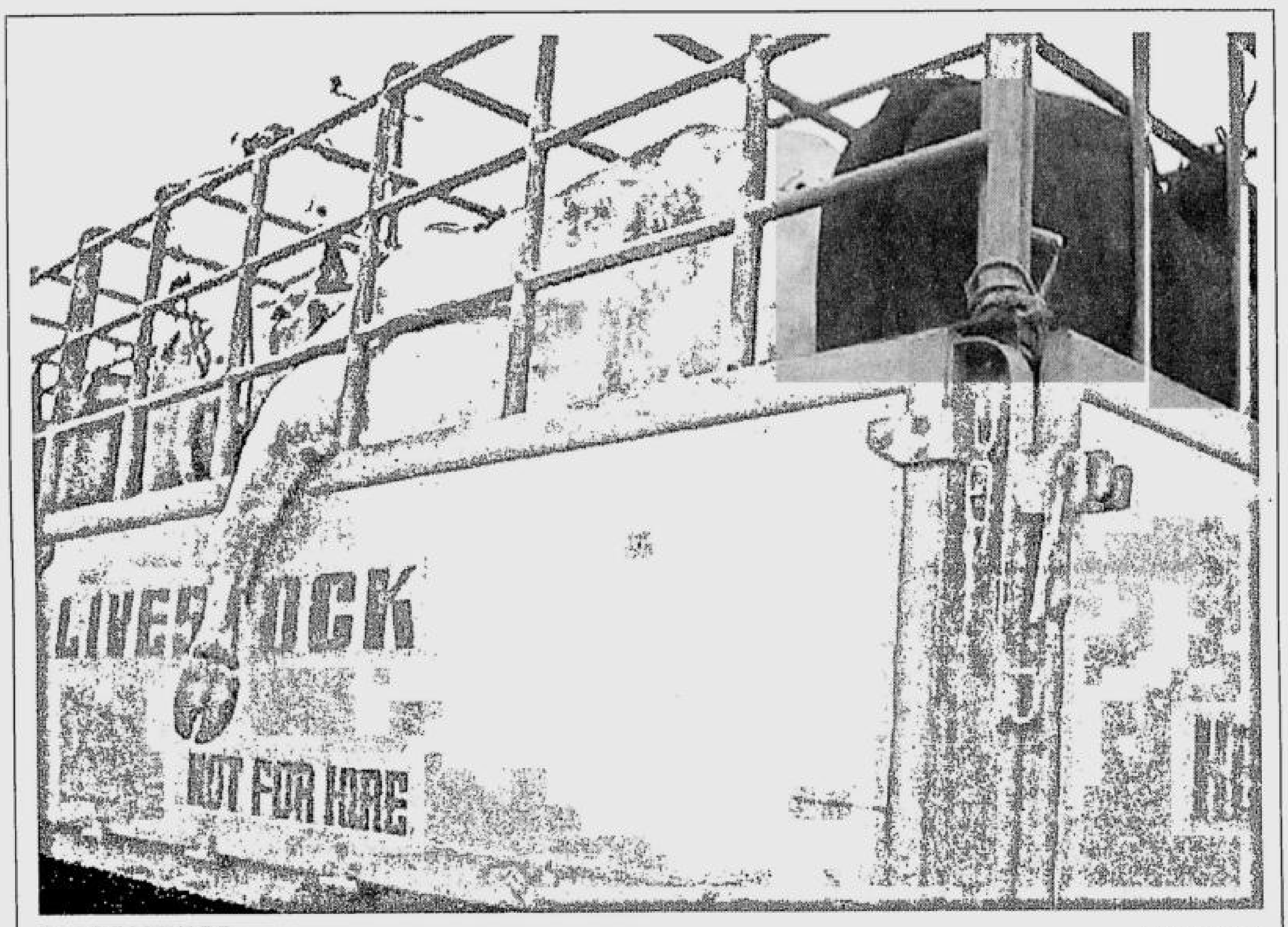
The community meeting Sunday was the first of the many security briefings being conducted here. Other groups that had theirs were town mayors, volunteer watchmen and barangay officials.

The war on terrorism has been heightened following a series of bombings in Zamboanga City and Metro Manila.

Authorities were put on heightened alert as a result of the bombings while President Macapagal ordered local government units to put in place their own strategies against terrorism.

The terrorists struck despite continued efforts by the Philippine military to hunt down the Abu Sayyaf which is behind a spate of kidnappings and bombings in Mindanao and other parts of the country.

Recently, US soldiers came to the Philippines to train Filipino soldiers on anti-terrorism tactics and hold military exercises with the Philippine Armed Forces.



DENNIS JAY SANTOS

FOOT FORWARD
This cow is not displaying her best ware for the public to see, but probably waving for help knowing they are headed for a slaughterhouse in Cagayan de Oro City.

Subic agrees to host annual military exercises of PMA cadets

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) has opened its doors to the annual war exercises by the Philippine Military Academy.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said this was the first time SBMA officials allowed military troops to set foot on the former American naval installation, since 1991 when the United States closed down its military bases in the country.

Reyes and SBMA chair Felicito Payumo signed a memorandum of agreement here on Saturday during the PMA's 104th Foundation Day rites.

The agreement authorizes the PMA to use SBMA's forest range and its airfield and port facilities for its regular field training exercises.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent, said the facility offers cadets a better terrain for simulated guerrilla combat exercises, and counter terrorism tactics than previous training locations like Cavite.

The SBMA Compound will also ensure the security of the cadets, Adan added.

Payumo has reserved the former George Dewey High School facility for cadet housing, until the PMA can set up its own facilities there.

The agreement also obliges PMA to share training programs with the SBMA's security team.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Army's Northern Luzon Command, said Subic and the Clark Special Economic Zone are some of the primary terrorist targets in Luzon.

But Payumo said he is considering the agreement as a tourism dividend for the Subic freeport. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

200 former MNLF rebels wage different kind of war for peace

DAVAO CITY—Some 200 former combatants of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) are waging another war in Mindanao to build peace and bring development in 157 former war-ravaged areas.

Calling themselves Peace and Development Advocates (PDAs), the former MNLF combatants now fight for peace in their once stronghold areas to sustain peace in Mindanao that they once dreamed of when they entered into an agreement with government.

They have been doing voluntary work to improve living conditions in their communities.

Leopoldo Lalang, former head of the Davao Saratan State Security Command under Commander Faizal Abdulrakman, said they have to move to contribute to the development of the 157 depressed communities.

"This is a different kind of war," Lalang said.

Lalang said they are now fighting poverty, otherwise, former fighters may just get their arms again and go back to the mountains fighting the government.

Lalang and the 199 peace advocates get big support from the government and the United Nations.

As warriors for peace and development, the PDAs have been assisting the communities that were once ravaged by their own war with government.

These communities are called Peace and Development Communities, while the PDAs are stationed in several areas in Zamboanga, Cotabato, Sarangani, Sulu, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Davao areas. *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

500 join rally at start of agri confab

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—About 500 farmers, scientists, cause-oriented groups and non-governmental organizations converged at the International Rice Research Institute's (IRRI) gates to protest an ongoing meeting of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

The protesters brought with them seven black coffins symbolizing what they said were the deaths of sustainable agriculture, environment, workers' rights and lives of workers through massive use of toxic chemicals promoted by CGIAR and multinational firms.

The protest was timed with the opening of the annual general meeting of CGIAR officials and scientists from various countries throughout the world.

Pat Mooney, an expert in erosion technology concentration (ETC) of Canada, told the INQUIRER that there is a need for CGIAR to be holistic in its approach in agriculture.

It should not be too concerned with rice production alone with the help of multinational firms and in the process neglect the environment and health of farmers.

"The CGIAR members (including IRRI) are inviting us to talk with them to death but people running this group are never willing to allow us to participate in changing the direction in which the group is heeding towards to," Mooney said.

Duncan Macintosh, IRRI spokesperson, told the INQUIRER earlier that IRRI was willing to share technology with farmers who advocate a chemical-free agriculture.

"We can debate about all these things without end here but I don't think we are helping solve the real problem. We need to share our technologies in order to produce better results. IRRI is always open for any new ideas," Macintosh, who went to the protest area, said.

Rafael Mariano, one of the protest leaders, said in a statement that "CGIAR and IRRI's claims allegedly boast of promoting 'the best of science to benefit poor farmers' is nothing but pure double-talk."

"Instead, CGIAR and IRRI's corporate science turned agriculture into a 'milking cow' by stealing farmers' seeds . . .," the statement said. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'Barya' new approach in efforts to put stop to 'jueteng'

LAOAG CITY—If jueteng operators chalk up P1 of every poor man's income, it takes the same amount for every bettor to save and start a common fund that would generate jobs for the poor.

Taking a different tack in the anti-jueteng drive, Interior Secretary Jose Lina has encouraged citizens to channel their hard-earned money to a proposed village fund called "Operasyon: Barangay Yaman" (Barya) instead of throwing them away in games of chance like jueteng.

"I encourage every local government unit to start saving money for their constituents. If we can splurge on (non-essential expenditures), why can't (officials) spare P10 (or P1 for every village folk) to this common fund?" Lina told a forum of mayors and employees of the Department of Interior and Local Government here on Monday.

Lina said the village fund would "go a long way" in supporting alternative livelihood programs for the poor and unemployed residents.

Lina was invited as guest in the Luzon-wide conference of the Provincial Board Members' League of the Philippines. He met local officials here briefly before proceeding to the conference.

During the forum, Lina encouraged local officials, mostly mayors and village leaders, to bring out problems that needed the DILG's action.

The leaders shied away from discussing jueteng, which is still rampant in several Ilocos Norte towns, and focused instead on the LGUs' internal revenue allotment (IRA) share and how the national government is working on releasing their funds.

Lina himself did not dwell directly on the jueteng problem even while he was discussing the need for officials to start an alternative fund for their constituents.

The "Barya" program is actually a component of the DILG's four-pronged approach in eradicating jueteng, the rest being effective law enforcement, increased penalties against offenders and a pro-active citizens' movement.

"Even if you keep on arresting (jueteng lords) but they rake in billions of pesos. The penalty is so small while the imprisonment is so light," Lina said.

Lina earlier transfered the task of jueteng monitoring and control from the DILG to the Philippine National Police but he vowed to pursue the anti-jueteng drive to its "logical conclusion."

In Pangasinan, local officials and the Catholic Church organized the Krusadang Bayan Jueteng-Free Philippines, a pioneer group of anti-jueteng advocates, to fight illegal gambling.

The group, headed by Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, was formed after a two-day anti-jueteng summit in Dagupan City last week.

INQUIRER *Northern Luzon*
Editor Jun Bandayrel • *Bureau Chief* Rolando B. Fernandez

Galman's mother still crying out for justice

By Anselmo Roque
Aliaga, Nueva Ecija

A 73-YEAR-OLD mother in Aliaga, Nueva Ecija, will not visit the tomb of her son this All Saints' Day. Saturnina Galman said she is too poor to be able to visit the grave of her son Rolando in a memorial park in Parañaque, Metro Manila, more than 140 kilometers away.

"But his memory remains. I always pray for him, so that his soul will have eternal peace," she said.

Saturnina's pain of not being able to visit the grave of her son during this time of the year may be dismissed as just one of the many such occurrences due to varied reasons. But her case is different in the light of the circumstances of the death of her son and her fight to clear his name.

Like many other poor families, a tarnished name and dishonor are the last things that they want to befall them.

Rolando Galman, then 33, was tagged as the assassin of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. at the tarmac of the then Manila International Airport on Aug. 21, 1983.

National and military officials at that time described him as the gunman hired by local communists to kill Aquino to create confusion and chaos for an eventual takeover of government by the communists.

But Saturnina couldn't accept the accusation that her son was Aquino's assassin. She knew that Rolando, her eldest in a brood of nine, was peacefully eking out a living as a farmer with his family in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Terrifying

A few days after the MIA incident, Saturnina, a widow, recalled that soldiers came to their house and took her and her children to Metro Manila. They were placed under the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation.

She was told to identify a body in the NBI morgue. She was told that the man, who was earlier identified as Rolando Vizcara, was her son Rolando.

"My mind refused to accept that the assassin was my Rolando. Why would he do that?" she said.

She said she did not tell them that the man was indeed Rolando because she was afraid the soldiers would harm her.

Then one man showed up and the fight to clear up her son's name followed.

"I am Atty. Lupino Lazaro. Don't be afraid, I am your lawyer. I will help you. Don't go with anybody who will come here to get you," Saturnino quoted the man as saying.

Lazaro helped her appeal to Camp Crame officials to release the body of Rolando, which was kept in the NBI morgue.

For five years, Saturnina stayed with the Lazaros until the completion of the hearings of the Agrava Commission and the Sandiganbayan.

She said she didn't know Lazaro and his wife Gilda, but she knew that the couple went out of their way to help her and her family.

"What we offered them were only sincere thanks," Saturnina said.

She said she appealed to Corazon Aquino, the widow of the senator, to allow them to bury her son at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

Aquino granted her request and her son was finally buried on Nov. 8, 1983.

"*Libo ang nakipaglibing. Lahat sila nakasuot ng dilaw na T-shirt* (Thousands joined the funeral procession. All of them wore yellow shirts)," she said.

She said those who joined the funeral procession belonged to the August Twenty-One Movement (Atom) and Justice for Aquino, Justice for All (Jaja), two groups calling for a deeper investigation of the killing of Aquino.

She said Aquino's brother, former senator and now Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino, led those who joined the funeral procession.

'No foul deed can be kept a secret forever'

Saturnina said even Mrs. Aquino and Butz Aquino did not believe that it was Rolando who killed the former senator.

"*Ginamit lang siya* (Rolando)," Saturnina said.

Saturnina said she wouldn't be able to know who used her son as a fall guy. She also wouldn't be able to know who abducted Rolando's wife, Lina, in August 1983 and what they did to her. Since 1983, she said they have not received news on Lina's whereabouts.

But she remains hopeful that the truth behind the Aquino assassination will come out. "Wala namang baho na hindi sumingaw (No foul deed can be kept a secret forever)," she said.

GALMAN at the tarmac of the Manila International Airport in this 1983 photo from Asiaweek magazine.

Young chess prodigies need support

By Gia Damaso-Dumo
San Fernando City

TWO child prodigies in chess, an eight-year-old girl and a nine-year-old boy, both from La Union, have earned enough medals to represent the country in the under-10 age category of the prestigious World Youth Chess Championships to be held next month in Crete, Greece.

But as the competition date of Nov. 14 draws near, neither of them is sure if he could have the chance to bring pride to the country simply because their families do not have enough resources to finance the European trip and the expenses for the 14-day tourney.

And, to date, there are no commitments yet from potential sponsors from whom they have asked support.

Eight-year-old Chardine Cheradee Camacho quickly became the darling of sportswriters when she won as best player in the under-10 girls' category of the National Age Group Chess Championship held in Greenhills in May.

The quiet, unassuming Grade 4 pupil from the Aringay School of Science, Arts and Technology impressed chess gurus with her dedication, focus and "workman-like manner" of play. Her victory in Greenhills made her the official under-10 female representative of the country to any chess tournament abroad.

The opportunity came in June this year, when the Association of South East Asian Nations Age Group Championship was held in Singapore. Camacho almost did not make it to the tourney due to financial constraints.

'First big find'

But with the hard-earned money of her parents, both engineers, and financial help from the Philippine Chess Society (PCS), she not only competed but also won the gold in the eight-and-under division. She even outshone the rest of the Philippine delegation in their respective plays, according to one sportswriter.

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'Happy' obituaries giving handsome adv't dividends

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

WHERE in the world can you find obituaries with smiling college graduation photos of the dead when they were still in their prime of youth? Perhaps, only in Baguio City.

The tradition of the "happy" obituary evolved through time at the Baguio Midland Courier, 'the city's biggest and oldest weekly founded in 1947. And this has proved to be a commercial success for the paper whose obituaries are its third biggest income source, next to "want and display" ads and legal notices.

The Courier has a secret in the profitable success of its obituaries, which mostly show the dead with their best foot forward. "We always adhere to what clients want in terms of texts and photos, and more often they give the best photos (of their dead relatives)," says advertising in-charge Angelica Begornia.

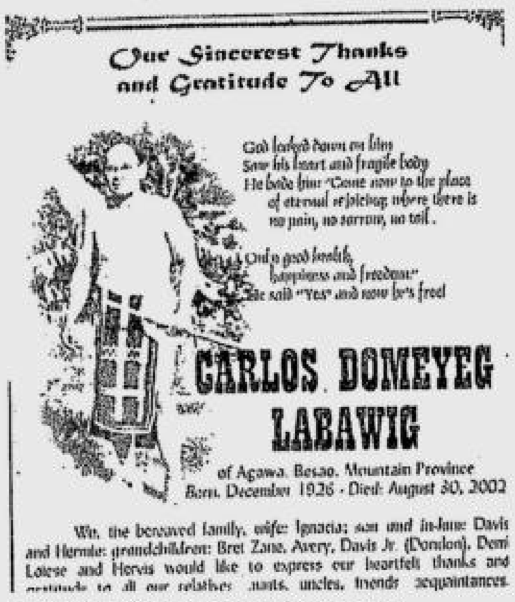
A recent obituary of a 76-year-old native of Besao, Mt. Province, for example, shows the picture of a grinning man garbed only in g-string and a pair of signature sneakers.

Handsome photos

The 12-inch-by-16-inch-size Courier averages four to five pages of obituaries weekly, most of which contain photographs of the dead when they were much younger and healthier.

The reason is obvious. "Who would like to place (in the obituary) a photo of a person with an emaciated face and bald head when he or she underwent chemotherapy and died of cancer? Of course, it is better to provide a photo of a person when he or she was younger and more beautiful," says Courier editor Cecile Afable.

> The first obituary with a smiling college graduation photo, complete with a graduation cap and toga, belonged to a woman who died in 1982



Our Sincerest Thanks and Gratitude To All

God looked down on him
Saw his heart and fragile body
He bade him "Come now to the place of eternal rejoicing where there is no pain, no sorrow, no toil.
Only good health, happiness and freedom!"
He said "Yes" and now he's free!

CARLOS DOMEYEG LABAWIG

of Agawa, Besao, Mountain Province
Born: December 1926 - Died: August 30, 2002

We, the bereaved family, wife: Ignacia; son and in-law: Davis and Hermie; grandchildren: Bret Zane, Avery, Davis Jr. (Dondon), Demi Loiese and Hervis would like to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all our relatives, aunts, uncles, friends, acquaintances.

A "HAPPY" obituary in the Courier.

Scanning past issues of the Courier, the INQUIRER found out that the "obituary-with-happy-photo" tradition evolved only in the 1980s. Until the 1970s, obituaries in the Courier were simple "card of thanks" with the usual R.I.P. (Rest in Peace) logos.

The first obituary with a smiling college graduation photo, complete with a graduation cap and toga, belonged to a woman who died in 1982.

The blooming of the obituary-with-photo tradition in the Courier can be credited both to the paper and its clients.

History

Afable remembers that clients seeking to put photos of their dead in the Courier's obituaries began to grow in number after the paper came out with a half-page obituary of Bembo Afable, the editor's lawyer-son and a Courier columnist who died in 1982.

A photo of a chubby Bembo accompanied the obituary.

That the paper has also been writing about the death of prominent community personalities, complete with pictures, must have given clients the idea of submitting photos for the obituaries of their dead, says Afable.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Until now, clients placing obituaries for the paper just "walk in," says Begornia, disclosing an average of 20 clients for obituaries alone each week.

The evolution in printing technology also helped fulfill the needs of clients, says Courier staff member Kathleen Okubo.

Until the 1970s, the paper was still using letterpress printers and it would be more tedious to print photos with this printing technology, she says.

The paper eventually acquired offset printers in the 1980s and these helped meet the demands of clients, she says.

Except for the photos, the obituaries now contain the usual card of thanks, expressing "heartfelt gratitude" to all those who condoled with the bereaved family, or announcement of masses and interment.

But other obituaries contain dedications telling, for example, how the dead was the "greatest dad" or the "greatest mom."

Other dedications tell about how the dead, through their legacies, continue to live in the hearts and memories of the bereaved families and all other people whom the departed had touched in one way or another.

So, in a way, some obituaries also serve as printed eulogies.

Commercial success

Clients include not only Cordillera residents, but also from the Ilocos and other lowland towns, especially if their dead relatives were residents of the city and the Cordillera. Igorots, who migrated to the United States and other countries, also place the obituaries of their dead kin in the Courier.

A whole-page obituary costs P15,360; half-page, P7,680; and one-fourth page, P3,840. The smallest obituary is a three-column by three-inch size, which costs P1,080.

To date, the 10 other recently established local papers have yet to beat the Courier, which has a 15,000 weekly circulation, in terms of obituaries and other ad placements.

It is thus not surprising that the joke in Baguio is that someone has not died unless one finds his or her obituary in the Baguio Midland Courier.

Young chess prodigies . . .

From page A17

She has since been touted as "the next world champion" and "first big find" of the Pines City Chess Academy (PCCA) in Baguio City, where she receives her training. The PCCA was founded by former computer executive Rodolfo Suaco, also the vice president of the PCS.

Loren Brigham Laceste, nine-year-old wonder from Santo Tomas, La Union, although equally gifted, may not be getting as much media attention, perhaps because he joined the wizard world at a "late" age.

In Greenhills, where Camacho drew most of the media attention because of her tender age, Laceste was also quite a performer and won the gold in the boys' 10-and-under category.

Before that, he had been a silver medalist in the Palarong Pambansa, champion of the Milo Little Olympics and champion of the Ilocos region athletic meet, all held this year.

Joseph Dumuk, National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) coordinator for the Ilocos, described Laceste's playing skills as "mature" and "with great potential." But the boy has not had a chance to compete abroad because of the limited resources of his family in which only his father, a teacher, is employed.

"*Kanya-kanyang bayad tayo dito* (We have to shoulder our own expenses). Most often, a player must find a sponsor either from the government or the private sector if he or she wants to compete abroad," Dumuk told the INQUIRER.

He said the NCFP, which calls itself "the sole governing body of chess in the Philippines," is not expected to provide financial support to the country's players in international competitions.

Dumuk will head the six-member Philippine team to Crete, to be composed of Camacho (girls under 10), Laceste (boys under 10), Aices Salvador (girls under 12), Nelson Mariano III (boys under 12), Vic Neil Villanueva (boys under 14) and International Master Mark Paragua (under 18).

Paragua is currently competing in the World Chess Olympiad in Bled, Slovenia, as the country's youngest grandmaster candidate. He is enrolled in the Time-Life Learning Program and is carried in the advertisements of Time-Life Books.

Financial help

La Union Gov. Victor Ortega has committed financial assistance to the La Union players but has also asked the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. for additional subsidy to cover the team's travel expenses and 100-euro (P5,184) each registration fee.

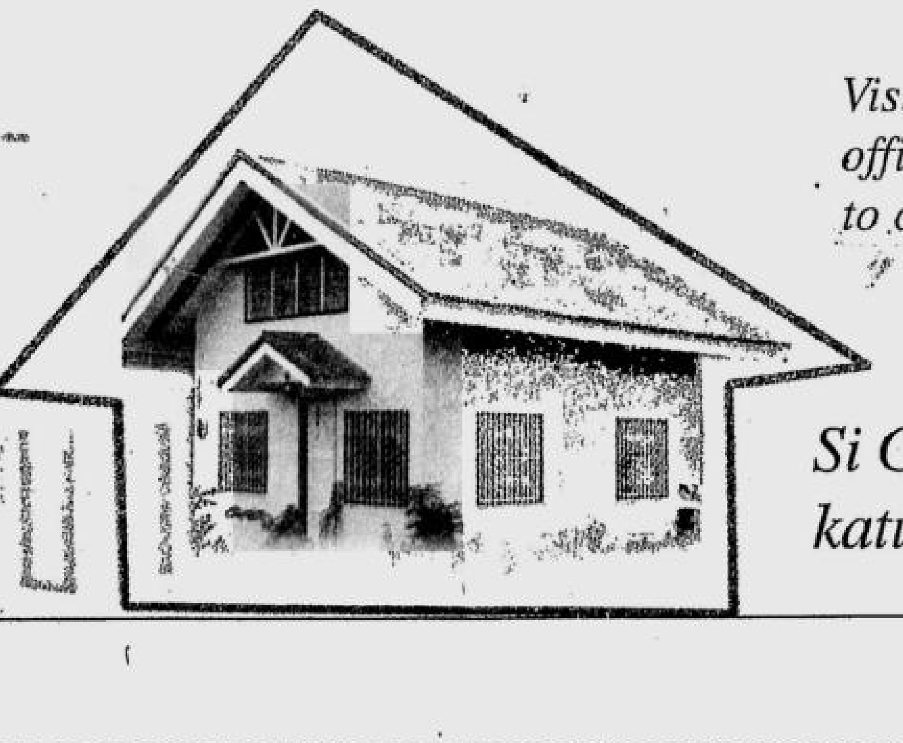
"When I accompanied our young players abroad, I saw how the delegates from other countries were getting all the support they needed. They had international grandmasters for coaches, computers and other equipment. They had all the opportunities to compete internationally which is why they have so much self-confidence," Dumuk said.

"In spite of all the odds, our kids are really holding their own. But they really need support from the government, private sponsors and even the schools. The ages of 10 and under, when the mind is like a sponge, are the best ages to train future chess champions," Dumuk said.

Kimberly Jane Cunanan, an 11-year-old Kapampangan chess whiz, will join the team as an extra player in the girls under-12 division, according to Gene Poliarco, NCFP executive director.

Poliarco, who described Cunanan as one of the country's leading youth players, will join the tournament for exposure and training.

Competing since she was four years old, Cunanan had stood out in many local and international tournaments. *With a report from Tonette Orejas*



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Mayor shot inside church

From page A1

shot in the head at close range while he was about to sign the marriage contract as one of the sponsors.

Responding police killed one of the gunmen who was identified as Edberto Amoncio, 26. A .45-caliber pistol was recovered from Amoncio. A companion of Amoncio was arrested.

Benwaren is survived by his wife Soledad, an employee of the National Police Commission (Napolcom).

He is the second mayor in Abra killed in less than a year. On Dec. 29, 2001, Tubo Mayor Jose Segundo was gunned down allegedly by New People's Army (NPA) rebels. At least seven barangay captains were also killed in Abra this year.

But Cordillera police officials ruled out the involvement of the NPA in the killing of Benwaren, a political science graduate of the Baguio Colleges Foundation in Baguio City, who belonged to a political family that has long served in Tineg. They said politics was the stronger motive for the assassination.

"Those who executed Benwaren are hired killers and only moneyed politicians can hire them," a police officer said.

The second term of Benwaren got off to a bad start in May 2001 when the Commission on Elections declared a failure of election in his town of less than 3,000 residents. Election paraphernalia failed to arrive in the town but five days later, Benwaren won as mayor.

Before his visit to Laguna to attend the wedding, Benwaren talked with Carlo Raha, a reporter of a Baguio-based weekly.

Raha said Benwaren had told him that Tineg councilors were set to file a recall move against Tineg Vice Mayor Edwin Crisologo for lack of confidence.

Senior Supt. Elpidio Gabriel said the Cordillera police would conduct their own investigation of the killing. The police and the military in the Cordillera had investigated various cases that involved the political rivalry between Benwaren and Crisologo.

On April 11 this year, a grenade was lobbed the house of Benwaren in the Abra capital of Bangued, destroying its façade and his Tamaraw FX van.

Three of Crisologo's supporters were arrested.

On April 25, eight armed aides of Benwaren were arrested while they were allegedly about to ambush Crisologo in Tineg.

Reports said the suspects had positioned themselves atop a hilly ground near the road to the Tineg town proper. Seized from them were seven M-16 rifles, an M-14 rifle, a shotgun and assorted bullets.

Reports said Crisologo's men were seen earlier following Benwaren and his men while the mayor and his companions were visiting remote villages in Tineg.

On July 12, 16 men attacked Benwaren and 14 others in Sitio Tapayen in upland Tineg. Benwaren and his group escaped unharmed but two of their attackers, Windy Segbu and Lazaro Sabado, were killed in the firefight. Soldiers from the 17th Infantry Battalion rescued Benwaren and his men on July 13.

The site of the attack can be reached only after an eight-hour hike from the town proper. Because of Benwaren's miraculous escape, many doubted that he was indeed ambushed. The military investigated the claims and concluded that the NPA had attacked Benwaren's group.

A letter purportedly from Ka Diego Wadagan of the NPA's Augusto Begnalen Command claimed that Segbu and Sabado were actually killed when Benwaren's brother opened fire at people attending a wake in the town.

But Benwaren, in another letter to the military, said Segbu was a known supporter of Crisologo while Sabado was a hired killer.

NPA attacks

Wadagan also accused the Benwarens of grabbing about 400 hectares of land in Tineg. Benwaren denied the accusation. The Benwarens were also accused of killing several people in the town since the 1980s.

On Sept. 12, the NPA burned an inn owned by the mayor in Barangay Vera, Tineg. In a statement, Wadagan said the NPA burned two small buildings and three huts as these served as a sanctuary for troops of the Philippine Army when on patrol.

Police are now tracking down the accomplices of the man who gunned down Benwaren.

Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Region 4 police director, said the gunman, Amoncio, casually walked to the pew where the mayor was seated and fired a .45-cal. pistol once to the head, killing him instantly.

Amoncio hastily walked out of the church. Hearing the gunfire, policemen rushed out of the municipal police station, gave chase and fired at the fleeing suspect, hitting him twice in the chest and once in the right arm.

The lawmen also caught up with the driver of the Hyundai van used by the suspects in going to the church. The driver was identified as Cernan Carandang-Manalang, 22. Amoncio's other cohorts, believed to be numbering four, fled on foot.

"The rites had already ended, the priest had left and the principal sponsors were already signing the couple's marriage contract when the shooting happened. At that time, Amoncio was seated in one of the pews," Galang said in a phone interview.

Galang, however, declined to speculate on the motives of the killing. "We're investigating all angles," he said.

Galang stood as a sponsor at the wedding of Benwaren and his wife, Sol, who was then a Napolcom hearing officer.

Police are expected to come up with an artist's sketch of the other suspects based on the accounts of the witnesses. Manalang initially told investigators that he was merely hired as a driver by the suspects.

Besides the pistol, police recovered some documents from the slain gunman, but refused to specify what these were.

No shots of crime

Police viewed the videotape of the wedding ceremony, but failed to pinpoint the gunman's cohorts among the guests at the church. Most of the time, the camera was focused on the couple at the altar, Galang said.

"Even the hired cameramen failed to take a shot of the actual shooting of the mayor .who was then seated in the pew because they were focused on the other principal sponsors who were still seated at the altar," he said.

During the shooting, one of the cameramen accidentally switched off the camera. Still, police would collate the still pictures of the wedding guests for the possible identification of the other suspects, Galang said.

Lyn Cuenca, parish. secretary, said the groom, Genie Galupar, 27, was born in Abra while the bride, Lhea Reyes, 23, hails from Barangay Masiit, Calauan. Galupar is a resident of Caloocan City. The wedding was officiated by Fr. Altaire Fernandez.

Go to RP, GMA tells Silicon Valley execs

From page A1

one meetings with the heads of the firms with investment projects in the Philippines, such as Intel whose plant Ms Macapagal was to tour later that day.

"Intel has already invested $1 billion and employs over 6,200 Filipino workers. That is my idea of a good anti-terrorism plan," the President said.

The United States is the Philippines' No. 1 trading partner and is a major source of both direct and portfolio investments.

$12-B trade

Trade between California and the Philippines exceeds $12 billion a year with the Philippines supplying the California high-tech industry with silicon chips, semi-conductor devices, circuit boards and other electronic and high-tech components.

Intel's $1-billion investment has been primarily in ATM (assembly, test and manufacturing) facilities that produce high-speed computer processors such as the Pentium III, Pentium IV and Celeron processors, as well as chipsets and flash memory used in mobile phone handsets.

Intel's Philippine unit was the major source of Pentium products in 2001.

Investment pledge

Though she had been in San Jose only a few hours, Ms Macapagal was able to report afterward at least one major investment pledge—a plan by the Cypress Semiconductor Corp. to put up a silicon wafer fabrication plant in the Philippines.

The President said this represented a deepening of the country's electronics industry.

"This is really a move forward. We are now going into the more basic materials. I should say backward because it is actually backward integration, but forward for our economy," she said.

"I do not know how much (the investment would be), but it is really big capital. A wafer fabrication unit is very capital-intensive. One company has only one or two of those," she added.

Cypress, a company that specializes in high-volume manufacturing of silicon cells at very low cost, is a major partner of Sunpower, a premier manufacturer of ultra high-efficiency silicon solar cells. Solar power and other renewable sources of energy have become more significant because of the political volatility in the traditional sources of oil.

Other major Silicon Valley investors in the Philippines include PeopleSoft, Cisco, HP-Compaq, Oracle, Sun Microsystems, Sybase and Agilent Technologies.

Among the officials that the President met here yesterday were those from Sunpower Corp., Solitron Global Services, the ICT Group, Unical Corp., and Chevron Texaco whose Philippine subsidiary, Caltex, is the third largest oil firm in the country.

Full support

She told the business executives that they had the full support of the Philippine government and outlined a list of policies and initiatives addressing security, foreign investment, economic development, education and training designed to make doing business in the Philippines easier for them.

"My administration is determined to provide good business conditions for investment by maintaining the bedrock of any country's competitiveness: an adherence to a long-term vision, which is victory against poverty within the decade; predictable and stable rules of the game; and most of all, rules and policies that are reform-oriented," she said.

The President said that among the concerns expressed by the Silicon Valley investors was the Philippines' limited number of engineers with advanced degrees.

"They said we should develop a masteral and doctoral degree program in engineering. Precisely because they want to go up higher in the value chain (in their new investments), the more specialized will be their need (for human resources)," she said.

Another concern raised was the cost of capital. She explained that interest rates in the Philippines were now lower than they have ever been in the past 15 years.

"And the cost of capital will probably even go down some more when the asset management companies start to take away the non-performing loans from the banking system," she said.

Most prestigious body

In a speech before the Commonwealth Club of California, the President presented her views on US-Philippine relations, the fight against terrorism and the importance of economic reform in the Philippines to attract more jobs and investments.

The Commonwealth Club of California is the most prestigious organization of business and civic leaders in the Bay Area. It is a most sought after forum by public personages whenever they are in the Silicon Valley area.

It most recently hosted the contending factions of the Iraq debate. Democrat Party leader Al Gore used the forum to criticize President Bush's Iraq policies, the first Democratic leader to do so. Vice President Dick Cheney also used the forum to explain the Bush administration's Iraq policy.

The club's Silicon Valley chapter hosted Ms Macapagal's luncheon address.

The renewed threat to global security had renewed and transformed the historic relationship between the United States and the Philippines, the President said.

"The challenge for US policymakers is to help Southeast Asian nations like the Philippines achieve their goals, while also securing the interests of the United States," she said.

She noted how the Apec meetings in Los Gatos, Mexico, last weekend had underscored a significant new trend among nations and leaders—the recognition that global terrorism must be fought hand in hand with the fight against poverty.

Veggie farmers seek 'special treatment'

From page A1

free trade system that will be perfected in 2004 when tariffs and trade barriers are removed in compliance with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) of 1994, explained the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) director, lawyer Blo Umpar Adiong.

"By that time, phytosanitary regulations shall be our only protection against imports. We can make use of that," Adiong said.

The WTO was established as a permanent international body to implement and enforce further trade liberalization. The Uruguay Round of the GATT forged the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) that drastically liberalized agricultural trade.

The chair of the Sandigan at Ugnayan ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (Sumapi), Ed Mora, said the entry of imported onions, garlic and cabbage in the last three years has pushed farmgate prices to their lowest levels, with garlic suffering a steep decline from P98/kg in 1999 to P47/kg in 2001, onions from P40/kg to P25/kg and cabbage from P10/kg to P6/kg.

Smuggled from China

A source in the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) said large volumes of vegetables being sold in wet markets and supermarkets were smuggled from China, a major source of other smuggled products.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor had told Benguet mayors last month that the imported vegetables now flooding Divisoria in Manila and parts of Northern Luzon had been traced to China, not Australia.

Legally, importations from China are limited to onions, garlic and broccoli leaves since China and the Philippines have no bilateral trade agreement on agriculture.

"Because smuggled vegetables are not subjected to phytosanitary inspections, there is no way of knowing if these are infested with pests. Also, vegetables from China are heavily contaminated with pesticides," the source said.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) lauded Montemayor's decision to make public the list of the 14 top vegetable imports, but wanted the agriculture chief to take a forceful and more definite stance by imposing sanctions on the importers.

Not punishable by law

The reality, however is, there is nothing in the law that makes importation of vegetables punishable, except when it is done illegally, that is through smuggling, according to the BPI, the agency that issues permits to import (PTI) agricultural products.

Adiong said the BPI's Plant Quarantine Service can only go as far as rejecting a shipment or disallowing an importation on phytosanitary grounds, or in cases when the vegetables being imported contain plant pests as well as potential animal pests.

"We cannot stop importations but we can regulate," Adiong told the INQUIRER.

Adiong said most of the 14 top vegetable importers led by rustan's Supermarket cited by Montemayor were not selling to the local market, and were importing for their own use only, such as the Asian Development Bank commissary and the Philippine Airlines, which cater to its foreign clientele.

The others directly supply to hotels and restaurants.

But Adiong, a 1982 TOYM awardee for regional development, agreed that local farmers were being disadvantaged by cheaper imports of locally available vegetables, mainly carrots and potatoes.

"The vegetable industry in Baguio is being killed," he said.

"I have been talking with importers who come to file permits to import at my office and I appealed to them not to import vegetables that compete with our local products. As much as possible, they should import only those that are not available here," Adiong said.

Heeding appeal

Adiong said importers seem to be heeding the BPI's appeal, pointing to the INQUIRER a six-inch thick folder of around 20 pending PTI applications on his desk. Adiong's office gives the final approval for PTIs after these had been endorsed by the Plant Quarantine Office.

"Before, I was processing a pile of applications this high," Adiong said, extending his arm above his head.

But Adiong admitted that the BPI can only go as far as making an appeal to limit importations to those which are not available locally, so as to protect local farmers. "We can only ask them officially not to import those which will compete with our produce," he said.

Before the Philippines became a signatory to the GATT that the WTO adopted in 1994, potatoes and cabbages were among the last few vegetable lines in the country enjoying protection from competition with imports. This protection derived from import restrictions and high tariffs, said Lulu Gimenez, spokesperson of the Alliance of Peasants in the Cordillera Homeland or *Apit Tako*.

But under the GATT-WTO, the import restrictions have been removed, and the tariffs reduced steadily. Under the Tariffs and Customs Code of 1998, Philippine tariffs on imported potatoes were to drop to as low as 10 percent, and those for cabbages to 30 percent by the year 2000, making importation of these highland vegetables quite cheap.

The KMP said it was folly on the part of government to join the WTO without first making sure that agricultural, as well as industrial, production in our country was sufficiently developed to compete with countries.

"It was irresponsible of the Philippine legislature to agree with then Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when she sponsored the bill which got us into GATT," said KMP's Mariano.

He said that due to the combined effects of government's implementation of the Agreement on Agriculture and other agricultural policies, the Philippine market has been flooded with agricultural imports.

In 1994, the Philippines became a net importer of agricultural products, posting a $42 million agricultural trade deficit. Import growth was significant for cereals, fertilizers, dairy products, animal feeds, coffee, fish, meat, vegetables and fruits, and vegetable oil and fats.

La Trinidad Mayor Nestor Fongwan, president of the Benguet Mayors' League, told Montemayor in a meeting last month that allowing the vegetable imports could have serious implications on two resolutions filed by the Benguet mayors and the regional development council (RDC) of the Cordillera.

The resolution seeks a Philippine assertion for "special and differential treatment" for the vegetable industry in applying the GATT. By special treatment, the Philippines and other Third World countries want a transitional period set in place that will allow these respective governments time to subsidize and strengthen vulnerable industries before they are opened to free trade with the United States, Japan and the European Union.

Tito's lament . . .

From page A1

Ateneo de Manila University as a member of the dramatics guild.

That is, to be "acting President."

"I can call for a Cabinet meeting but what to tell my colleagues in the Cabinet would be best left to the President," Guingona said rather jovially in one of the light moments of a news briefing yesterday.

"One must move with caution and prudence," the Vice President said. And stay "within the bounds of good acting," he said.

But the 74-year-old Vice President also appeared wistful.

"So near yet so far," he said in his patented modulated voice after being egged on by reporters on how it feels to be "acting President."

He then laughed off the expected follow-up questions on his political plans.

"Before that question (on elections in 2004) should even be asked, we should first look at how we could solve our country's problems," the Vice President said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo last week named Guingona, her partymate at the Lakas-NUCD, as the head of the government's caretaker committee while she was abroad to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' summit in Mexico.

Guingona was assigned the lead caretaker role despite having been at loggerheads with the President on several foreign policy issues.

The Vice President resigned the Foreign Affairs portfolio in July after a much-publicized disagreement with Ms Macapagal on the conduct of the Balikatan exercises and the proposed Mutual Logistics Support Agreement.

On a more serious note, Guingona clarified that as acting President he is called upon to give immediate decisions on national concerns that demanded government action.

"If there are major events that need immediate attention, I act on it," Guingona said.

"It is another responsibility and I am ready to discharge these duties," he said.

One such occasion was when he called local authorities in Saranggani province about the escape of Abdul Basit Usman, the main suspect in the April 21 bombing in Gen. Santos City that left 15 persons dead, and 60 others wounded.

"I asked the pertinent officials about the suspect. Then I learned that no charges have been filed against him. I asked how long they detained the suspect and you know what they told me? They said they still had to check," Guingona said.

"I'm almost sure that their answer would be within the legal detention period of 72 hours without charges," he said.

Guingona, as acting President, has likewise met with Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and acting Finance Secretary Inocencio Ferrer, Jr. to find ways to stop the ballooning budget deficit, now pegged at P166 billion.

Guingona said that the devolution of certain national government functions to the local government units could help bridge the budget gap.

"By unburdening the national government of its functions that should have rightfully been devolved to the LGU's, we could solve our chronic budget deficit," said Guingona.

"Right now, they could immediately ease the deficit by at least P50 billion by undertaking for the national government the projects already identified in the budget," said Guingona.

The sun never sets for Pinoy on INQ7.net

From page A1

precedented average of 12.4 million impressions or pageviews per month in June. This means an average of 400,000 impressions per day and or 16,666 impressions per hour.

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"The Internet transcends borders and regions and I think this is the power of INQ7.net, aside from, of course, the news which is available in print (from the Philippine Daily Inquirer), video (from GMA-7) and audio (from dzBB)," Paolo Prieto, president and CEO of INQ7 Interactive, said.

The latest figures from the Filipino Internet User Report by the DigitalFilipino.com showed the INQ7.net leading the pack, whether in its ranking among new websites or just websites.

Indeed, the INQ7.net has gone a long way from the original INQUIRER Online launched in July, 1997 to the INQ7.net, which is the joint venture of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the GMA Network Inc. that went live in July, 2000.

Leo Magno, INQ7.net executive editor, said that then, there were fewer websites in the Philippines and there were no statistics to gauge the rankings in the young Internet industry.

Record

INQ7.net first hit a record in January 2001, at the height of Edsa 11 People Power. Magno said INQ7.net registered a million visitors, a first in local Internet history and pushing it to No. 11 among the world's websites.

The number of visitors declined after the tumultuous four-day bloodless revolution, and has stabilized at an average of half a million as of June.

Highest-ranked RP site

HALF a million "unique visitors" browse the INQ7 website every month.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Established in 1997 originally as INQUIRER Online, the website was then ranked 40,915 in the world search by Alexa Websearch. It has zoomed to No. 4,379 as of July this year. It is the highest ranking Philippine website in that survey.

Filipinas magazine poll

These traffic figures are supported by a readership profile survey conducted by Filipinas Magazine, a nationally circulated Philippine publication based in San Francisco, California, that showed that INQ7.net is the top Philippine website among its readers.

The Filipino Internet User Report by DigitalFilipino.com also said that for the second year in a row, Yahoo! topped as the foreign website visited by Filipino Internet users in the Philippines.

The DigitalFilipino.com report also said INQ7.net is the top Filipino website visited by Internet users in the Philippines.

The latest figures from the Filipino Internet User Report by Manila-based e-commerce research portal digitalFilipino.com also showed that the site's appeal is not limited to overseas Filipinos also showed that the site's appeal is not limited to overseas Filipinos.

The report showed INQ7.net leading the pack among local websites in terms of Philippine-based users for the second consecutive year. Of the top five websites visited by local surfers, only the Yahoo Internet portal and the Google search engine ranked higher than INQ7.net.

Special features

Janette Toral, DigitalFilipino.com founder and past president of the Philippine Internet Commerce Society, explained that the site's appeal "lay in its continuously updated content and special features that are only available online."

Among these special features is Global Nation (www.inq7.net/globalnation), INQ7.net's section for overseas Filipinos.

In this user-driven section of the site, many overseas Filipinos go beyond reading the news and sending feedback. They also share their stories.

Erlinda R. Layosa, 50, is one of them. Sixteen years ago, she left a husband, two children, and a cherished vocation as a teacher to become a domestic helper in Hong Kong. Her talent for writing and a penchant for hard work, however, landed her a job as an editor of a magazine catering to overseas Filipino workers in Hong Kong, a job that became the start of a writing career.

Since then, her efforts to help out her fellow OFWs earned her not only their respect, but also recognition from the Philippine government. In 1993, she received the Bagong Bayani award during the administration of former President Fidel V. Ramos. Layosa is also a 1996 Pamana ng Pilipino and 1998 Centennial Tanglaw ng Kalayaan awardee.

Today, Layosa is on her second year in Texwatch.com, a Chinese business-to-business e-commerce company catering to the international textile industry. She is the editor of the company's English news website—the only Filipino in a staff of 12.

When her story came out in the OFW Spotlight section of Global Nation, Layosa said that she was deluged by e-mail from Filipinos all over the world. She was even able to renew ties with long-lost friends and former students—including one student who is now a reporter for a Filipino community newspaper in Canada. Layosa said that she even received feedback from readers in countries like Vietnam.

Feedback

"We check the news every day sometimes even twice. We are also very pleased that you now have Frontpage video—this is really excellent. Thank you for this wonderful service to Filipinos abroad," write James and Helen Aberin who settled in Lublin, Poland two years ago and keep in touch with their homeland through the site.

Another overseas reader writes, "For people like us working outside of the country being able to 'hear' the news audibly for example via Frontpage makes us feel at 'home.'"

Aside from the site's video features and breaking news, INQ7.net readers are also drawn to the site's minute-by-minute running accounts which the site pioneered to cover the impeachment trial of president Joseph Estrada and later used to cover Edsa Dos and Edsa Tres. The updates help drive INQ7.net traffic to an all-time high of 1.8 million pageviews—a first in Philippine Internet history—during the oath-taking of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

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1. Every purchase of a one-way, full revenue ticket for Manila-Singapore that is flown in Flight 5J 803 from October 4 - October 31, 2002 makes the holder eligible to join the raffle.
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3. After, a Flight Attendant will go around with the official brown envelope wherein the passengers will drop their boarding passes. By the end of the promo period, there must be 28 sealed brown envelopes in total.
4. The winners draw will be on November 4, 2002 in Cebu Pacific's Airline Operations Center, Terminal 1, Domestic Airport, Parañaque at 5 PM.
5. Only 1 winner will be chosen per flight. There will be 28 winners in total.
6. The chosen raffle coupon must be verified to be a full-revenue ticket before it becomes a confirmed winner.
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9. Names of winners will be posted in all Cebu Pacific organic ticket offices nationwide. Winners will also be notified via phone & registered mail.
10. All trip certificates and hotel vouchers are transferable but are non-convertible to cash.
11. There is no limit to how many times a passenger can win the prize.
12. Winners will shoulder tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00, and all other applicable travel taxes, insurance surcharge, and other incidental airport charges and travel expenses.
13. Prizes may be claimed at the nearest Cebu Pacific organic ticket offices within 60 days from notification. In the Philippines: Manila Midtown Hotel Ticket Office, Hypermart Head Office, Robinsons Galleria Ticket Office, NAIA Ticket Booth, Cebu Airport Ticket Office, Cebu Midtown Hotel Ticket Office, Bacolod Airport Ticket Office. In Singapore: The Amara.
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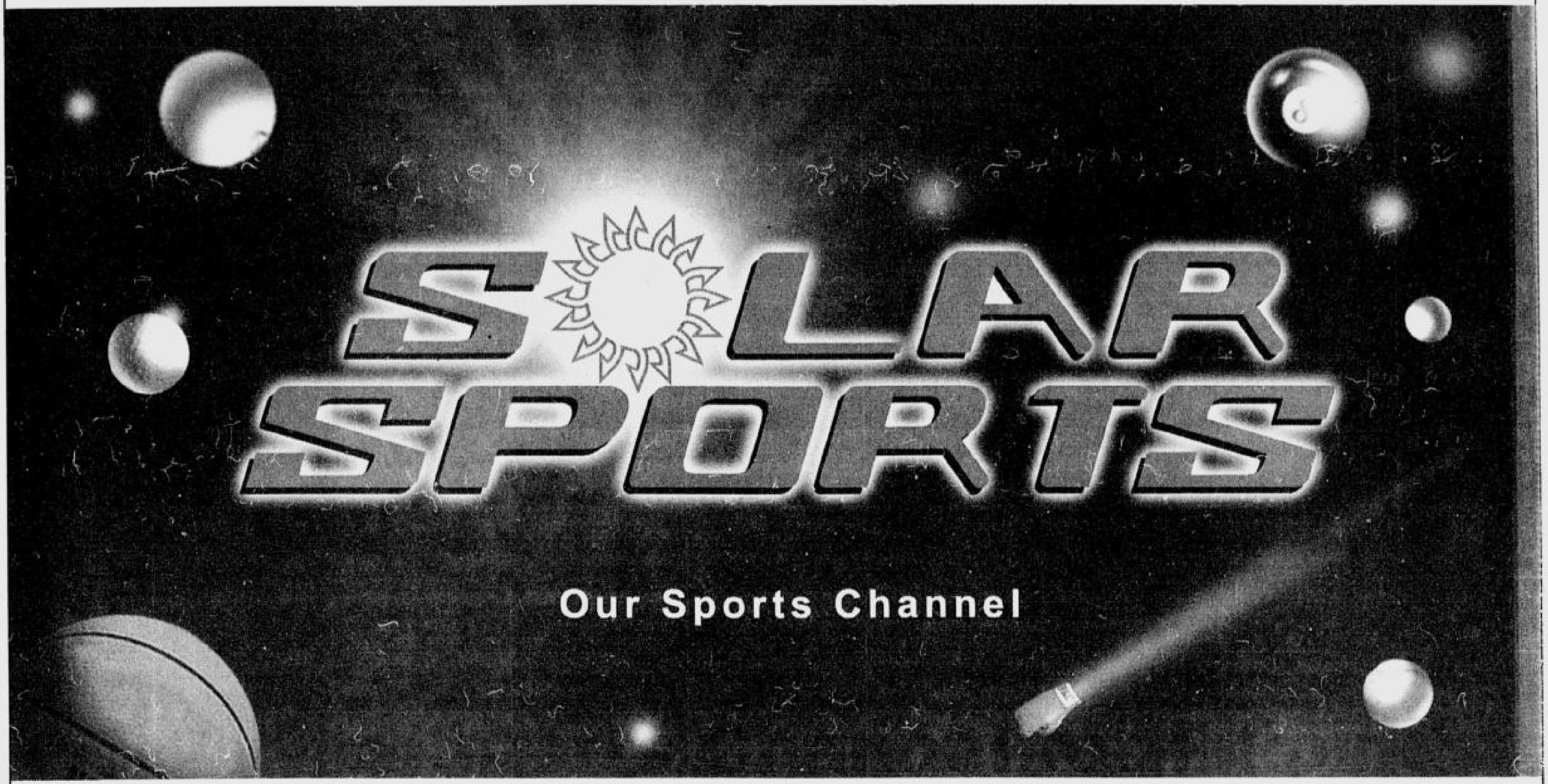

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NOVEMBER GAME SCHEDULES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			October 30 SAN ANTONIO Spurs vs LOS ANGELES Lakers 11:30 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	October 31 DALLAS Mavericks vs MEMPHIS Grizzlies 9 am - Live / 9:30 pm - Replay LOS ANGELES Lakers vs PORTLAND T'blazers 7 pm on IBC-13	1 PORTLAND Trailblazers vs SACRAMENTO Kings 11 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	2 INDIANA Pacers vs NEW JERSEY Nets 8:30 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay
3 TORONTO Raptors vs HOUSTON Rockets 9:30 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	4 PORTLAND Trailblazers vs LOS ANGELES Lakers 10:30 am - Live / 9:30 pm - Replay SACRAMENTO Kings vs MIAMI Heat 7 pm on IBC-13	5 SAN ANTONIO Spurs vs MEMPHIS Grizzlies 9 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	6 WASHINGTON Wizards vs MINNESOTA T'wolves 9 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	7 NEW JERSEY Nets vs MILWAUKEE Bucks 10:30 am - Live / 9:30 pm - Replay DALLAS Mavericks vs TORONTO Raptors 7 pm on IBC-13	8 LOS ANGELES Lakers vs BOSTON Celtics 8:30 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	9 MEMPHIS Grizzlies vs SACRAMENTO Kings 11:30 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay
10 PHILADELPHIA 76ers vs MILWAUKEE Bucks 9:30 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	11 SACRAMENTO Kings vs ATLANTA Hawks 10 am - Live / 9:30 pm - Replay LOS ANGELES Clippers vs ORLANDO Magic 7 pm on IBC-13	12 PORTLAND Trailblazers vs DALLAS Mavericks 9:30 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	13 TORONTO Raptors vs ORLANDO Magic 8 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	14 MINNESOTA T'wolves vs NEW ORLEANS Hornets 9:30 am - Live / 9:30 pm - Replay DALLAS Mavericks vs TORONTO Raptors 7 pm on IBC-13	15 ORLANDO Magic vs LOS ANGELES Clippers 11 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	16 SACRAMENTO Kings vs SEATTLE Supersonics 9:30 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay
17 INDIANA Pacers vs MINNESOTA T'wolves 9 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	18 HOUSTON Rockets vs LOS ANGELES Lakers 10:30 am - Live / 9:30 pm - Replay WASHINGTON Wizards vs PHILADELPHIA 76ers 7 pm on IBC-13	19 TORONTO Raptors vs ATLANTA Hawks 8:30 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	20 CHICAGO Bulls vs SACRAMENTO Kings 11 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	21 PHILADELPHIA 76ers vs MEMPHIS Grizzlies 10 am - Live / 9:30 pm - Replay LOS ANGELES Lakers vs SAN ANTONIO Spurs 7 pm on IBC-13	22 PORTLAND Trailblazers vs SEATTLE Supersonics 11 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	23 LOS ANGELES Clippers vs DENVER Nuggets 11:30 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay
24 WASHINGTON Wizards vs MEMPHIS Grizzlies 9 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	25 MILWAUKEE Bucks vs LOS ANGELES Lakers 10:30 am - Live / 9:30 pm - Replay HOUSTON Rockets vs LOS ANGELES Clippers 7 pm on IBC-13	26 NEW ORLEANS Hornets vs PHILADELPHIA 76ers 8 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	27 UTAH Jazz vs LOS ANGELES Clippers 11:30 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	28 NEW YORK Knicks vs TORONTO Raptors 8 am - Live / 9:30 pm - Replay HOUSTON Rockets vs GOLDEN STATE Warriors 7 pm on IBC-13	29 DALLAS Mavericks vs INDIANA Pacers 8:30 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay	30 WASHINGTON Wizards vs INDIANA Pacers 9 am - Live / 7 pm - Replay

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Associate Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Shaq-less, tough start for Lakers

By John Nadel
AP Sportswriter

LOS ANGELES—Mindful of Shaquille O'Neal's absence, Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson said a while back his team might begin its quest for a fourth straight NBA championship with a seven-game losing streak.

And that didn't take into account that Rick Fox won't be around for a while, either.

Last seen 4½ months ago, dominating New Jersey in the NBA Finals after surviving a series for the ages against Sacramento in the Western Conference finals, the Lakers pick up their championship rings Tuesday night before opening the new season against San Antonio.

Fans at Staples Center might need a scorecard to identify their heroes.

Oh, a bulked-up Kobe Bryant will be around, as will Derek Fisher, Robert Horry, Samaki Walker, Devean George, Brian Shaw and Slava Medvedenko.

But O'Neal will be watching from the bench and Fox will have to leave after getting his ring.

Newcomers Soumaila Samake and Tracy Murray and rookies Kareem Rush and Jannero Pargo will fill in.

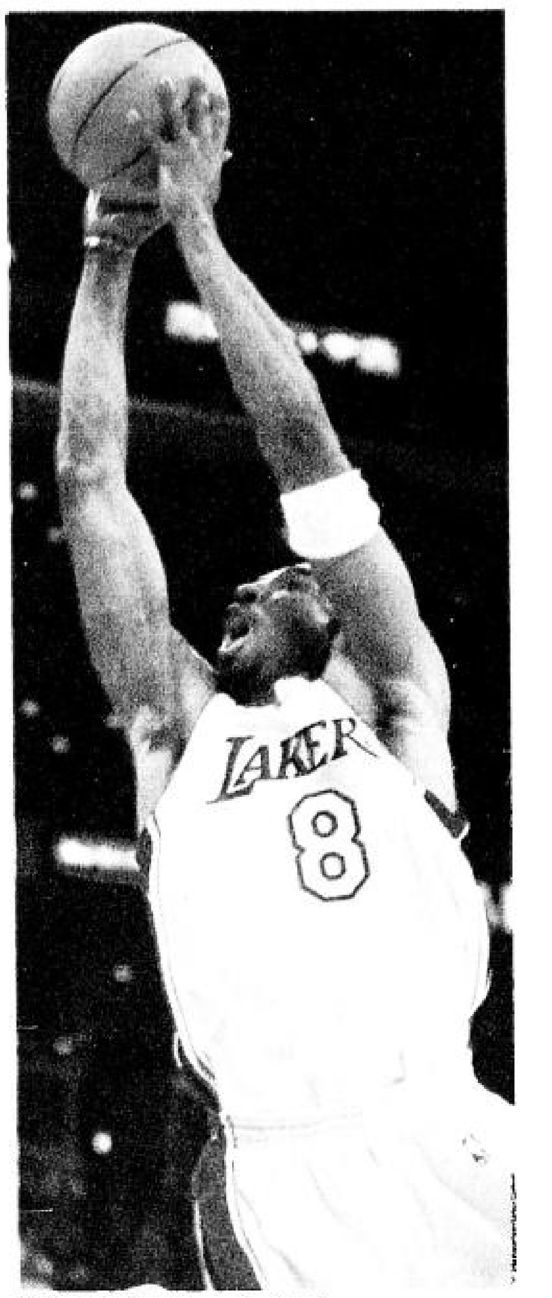
"We know it's going to be a challenge for us," Jackson said. "It's the first game. We'll get it under way and we'll make the adjustments as the game goes."

As expected O'Neal was placed on the injured list Monday—the same day he was cleared to run by his doctor, Robert Mohr, who instructed the center to run for two minutes, walk for eight and then repeat the process.

"I ran today, it felt pretty good," said O'Neal, still recovering from Sept. 11 surgery on his arthritic right big toe.

O'Neal must miss a minimum of five games, meaning he could return at Boston on Nov. 7, but it's more likely he'll sit out a few more.

Should he play for the first time against the Atlanta Hawks at home on Nov. 12 or against the Golden State Warriors three days later, he will have missed seven or eight games.



BRYANT: Can he do it alone?

Sta. Lucia seeks 2nd win versus Ginebra

GAMES TODAY *(Ynares Center)*
5:30 p.m.--Ginebra vs Sta. Lucia Realty
7:30 p.m.--Talk N' Text vs FedEx

By Dennis U. Eroa

STA. LUCIA Realty tries to catch the pacesetters as it tackles Barangay Ginebra today in the Selecta PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Ynares Center.

The Realtors started their campaign by edging Talk N' Text, 70-67, last Oct. 25 and a win over the Kings tonight will enable them to tie Red Bull Thunder and Purefoods Hotdogs for the lead.

The Ginebra-Sta. Lucia tiff is set at 5:30 p.m., followed by the 7:30 p.m. clash between Talk N' Text and FedEx.

Just like the rest of the nine-team field, Sta. Lucia is determined to get off to a flying start. Due to its commiment in the Busan Asian Games, the league has shortened the format of the All-Filipino, making it a must for the competitors to pile up as many wins as possible to have a chance for the automatic semifinals berths.

Unlike in past All-Filipino editions, the format was reduced to a single-round robin elimination. The top two qualifiers will make it outright to the semis.

Sniper Paolo Mendoza, Chris Tan, Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino banner Sta. Lucia's bid against Ginebra, which is hoping to capitalize on the momentum of its 68-62 win over sister team San Miguel Beer in an out-of-town game in Balanga, Bataan.

American coach Paul Woolpert will again attempt to record his first win after the Pals bowed to Sta. Lucia.

Meanwhile, the NCAA West downed NCAA East, 90-86, in the UAAP-NCAA All-Star Games yesterday before a sparse crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

Solar kicks off 'live' coverage of NBA games

SOLAR Entertainment Corporation, the local TV carrier of the NBA games, kicks off its TV coverage of the 2002-03 NBA season today with a "live" feed of the season-opening game between the three-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers against the tough San Antonio Spurs.

The coverage starts at 11:30 a.m. on the Solar Sports Network (Channel 29 on Skycable and Homecable).

Today's game marks the start of "live" games every morning, seven days a week, on the Solar Sports Network, with replays at night.

Shaquille O'Neal will open the season on the injured list and will miss at least five games, but Kobe Bryant, who figures to carry a heavier load with O'Neal out, told NBA.com that the Lakers are prepared for his absence.

However, without O'Neal, the Lakers may have their hands full against the Spurs and last year's MVP Tim Duncan and his fellow 7-footer David Robinson.

Tomorrow, Solar will air an NBA doubleheader featuring the "live" coverage of the Dallas Mavericks-Memphis Grizzlies game at 9 a.m. on the Solar Sports Network and the Los Angeles Lakers-Portland Trailblazers at 7 p.m. on IBC-13.

Solar also airs its NBA games on IBC-13, Mondays and Thursdays.

The Mavericks, last year's highest scoring team in the NBA, bring back their superstar-trio of Steve Nash, Michael Finley and Dirk Nowitzki, while Memphis (formerly Vancouver) will be led by last season's Rookie of the Year Pau Gasol of Spain.

Meanwhile, the Blazers brought back 7-foot-3 Arvydas Sabonis out of retirement to join their core of Scottie Pippen, Rasheed Wallace and Bonzi Wells.

RP saves draw with England; Torre falls

BLED, Slovenia–Veteran internationalist Petronio Roca made up for GM Eugene Torre's loss at the top board Monday as the Philippines held sixth seed England to a 2-2 result in the third round of the 35th Chess Olympiad here.

Roca bested GM John Emms in 43 moves of a Trompovsky even as Torre, handling black, yielded to super GM Michael Adams in a Ruy Lopez encounter.

Joey Antonio agreed to a 12-move draw with fellow GM Nigel Short while 18-year-old Mark Paragua salvaged a draw through perpetual check over Luke McShane to avoid another defeat for the Filipinos, who bowed to the Americans (2.5-1.5) in the second round.

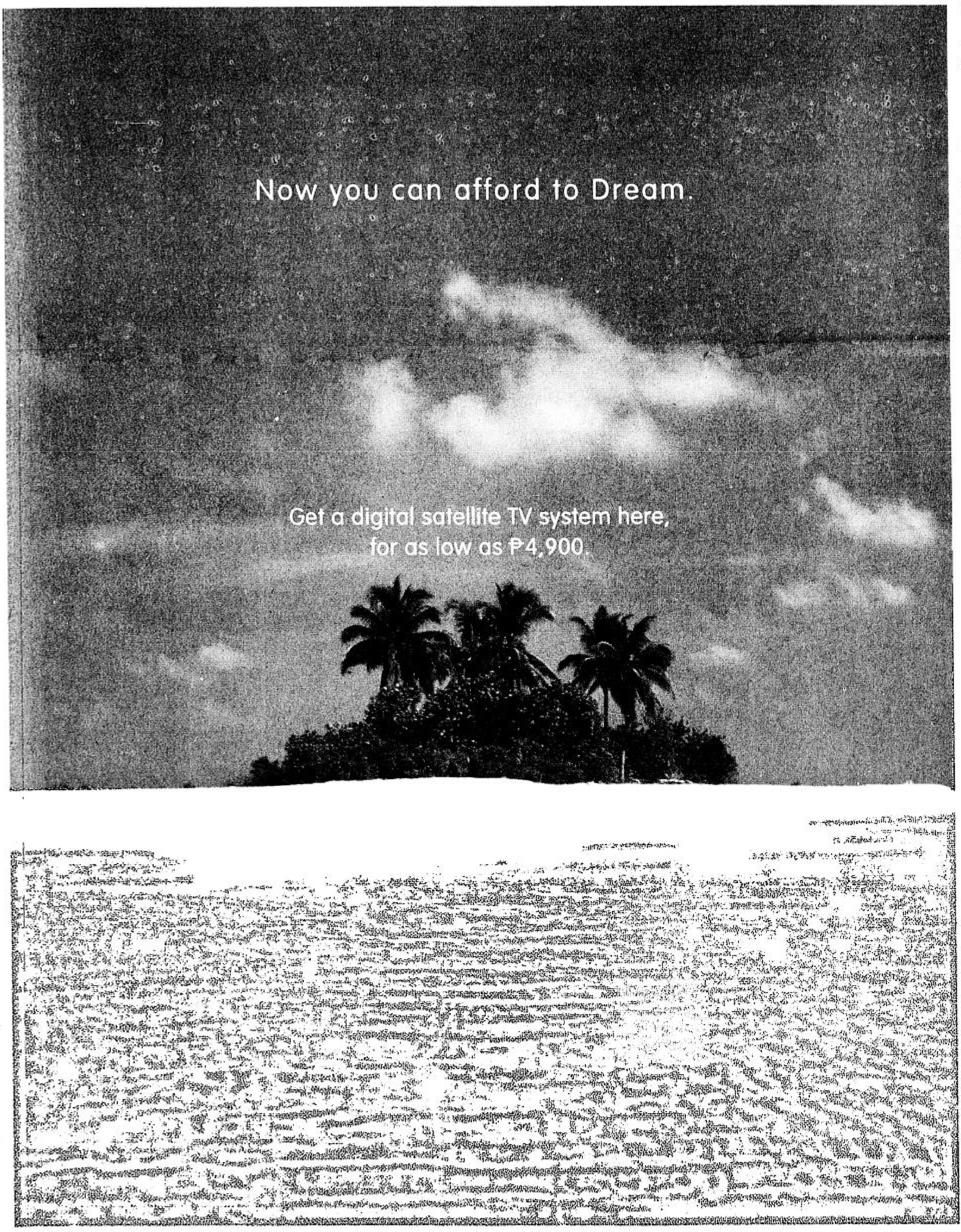
"Two pawns down *na ako pero kumagat siya sa trap ko,"* said Paragua, after the 43-move Sicilian game.

The Philippines improved to 7.5 points and will meet Belgium this afternoon in a bid to crash the Top 20 of the 134-team field, being led by Russia, Cuba, Georgia and Poland with 10 points each.

Grandmaster candidate Arianne Caoili spearheaded the Philippine women's team's 2-1 victory over Iceland as it climbed to 5.5 points and shared 26th place with 13 others.

The Filipinas battle the Netherlands, which is being bannered by former Chinese Peng Zhaoqin, Tuesday afternoon.

Roy Luarca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PSC to hold nat'l championships

By June Navarro

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The ongoing Mindanao Friendship Games will serve as an offshoot to a bigger sports program that could catapult the country as the next sports power after China in Asia.

PSC Chair Eric Buhain yesterday hatched the idea that would only materialize with the creation of a national championships, whose objectives are to scour the countryside of talents and pick the best athletes in the land.

Buhain said the participants in the national championships would be the top performers in the three regional meets–Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao games–with the Luzon and the Visayas jousts still being planned.

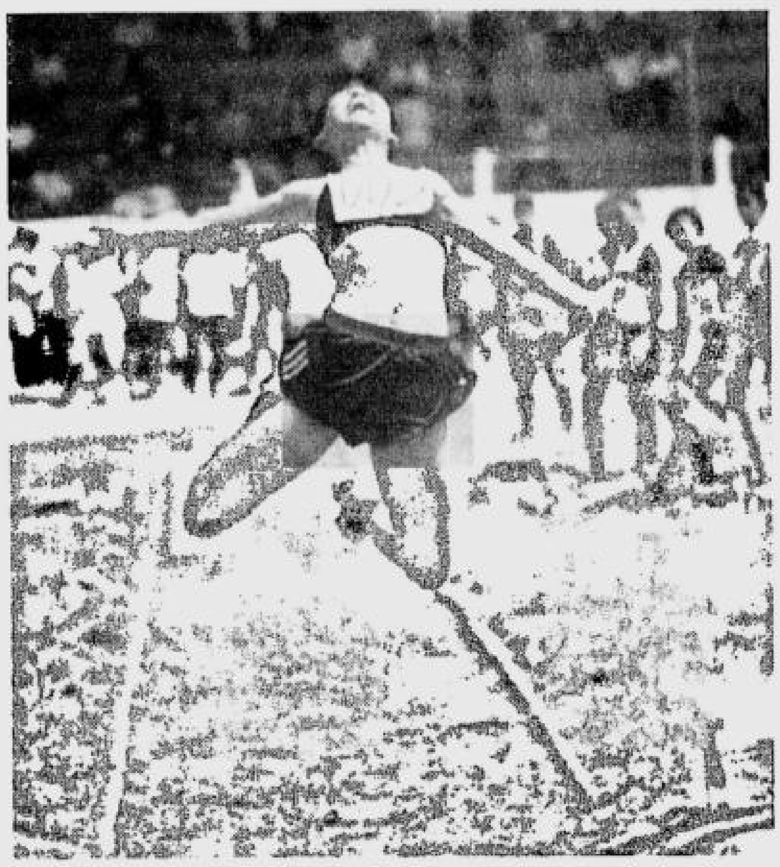
"By December, everything will be finalized and we can begin the plan immediately in time for the Vietnam SEA Games," said Buhain, who admitted getting some valuable insights from Chinese sports officials during his stay in the recently concluded Busan Asian Games.

Buhain added that P60 million or almost 10 percent of the PSC budget will go straight to the regional meets and the national championships.

Meanwhile, Davao City hit a gold mine in judo yesterday, scooping six gold medals in the event on a day when a total of six records fell by the wayside in swimming in the Mindanao Friendship Games at the Don Gregorio Pelaez Sports Complex here.

Alamara Norton, a hometown heroine in women's swimming, registered 31.68 seconds in the 50-meter breaststroke, shattering her own mark of 32.20 seconds done during the initial staging of the MFG last year.

On a roll, Norton followed it up with another record-breaking endeavor in the 100-meter backstroke as she partially eclipsed the 1:07.10-minute effort of Kharam Ajias with a 1:07.00 clocking.



LOUIE Framil of General Santos City soars en route to winning the gold medal in the women's long jump yesterday.

RYAN LIN/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

SPORTSWATCH

Amputee shines in Busan

BUSAN, South Korea—Asean Para Games most bemedalled swimmer-amputee Arnold Balais of Cebu broke his personal best time in the men's 100-m butterfly but it was only good for fifth place in the 8th Far East and Pacific (Fespic) Games for the Disabled at the Busan Sports Comp lex Sajik swimming pool here yesterday. Balais clocked 1:31.30 to improve his personal best of 1:35 which he set during the time trials earlier this year.

Bush hails Angels manager

DENVER, Colorado—US President George W. Bush on Monday telephoned the general manager of the Anaheim Angels to congratulate him on winning baseball's World Series, the White House said. It was not clear whether the self-described baseball fanatic and former part-owner of the Texas Rangers watched the Angels best the San Francisco Giants 4-1 in the series' seventh and deciding game. "Knowing the president, I'm sure he did," Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters. *AFP*

Buhain guest of honor

PSC chair Eric Buhain will be the guest of honor when the 2002 Milo Little Olympics holds its awarding ceremonies today at the Century Park Hotel. Sisters of Mary-Sta. Mesa and Aurora A. Quezon Elementary School retained their overall high school and grade school titles, respectively, and will each be rewarded with P40,000 worth of sports equipment. SOM-Sta. Mesa garnered 15 golds, 12 silvers and 3 bronze medals, followed by SOM-Cavite (10-6-4) and Marist (6-1-2) in the HS division; while AAQES accumulated a 10-6-7 tally to finish ahead of Imus Pilot-Cavite (9-4-3) and St. Paul-Pasig (7-5-4) in the ES class.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Absurd 2. Heza Gunner/Diamond Sky 3. Batang Cabu
Race 2—1. Front Page 2. Sir Olizon 3. Howard Huge
Race 3—1. Red Star Rising 2. Espirikitik 3. Master Sherwin 4. Man River/Festive Charm 5. Close Account
Race 4—1. Yes Sir 2. Shuttle's Magic 3. Mini Skirt
Race 5—1. Mystika/Something Silver 2. Simply Great 3. Prince Armstrong 4. Nevada Rhum 5. Night Flight
Race 6—1. Reigns Supreme 2. Magical Surf 3. Flying Strike
Race 7—1. Bukambibig 2. Ready Aim Fire 3. Trail Blazer 4. Samahan 5. Time Essential
Race 8—1. Real Tough 2. Born Perfect 3. Cameron 4. Count Your Blessings
Race 9—1. River Bee 2. Tatler Cover 3. Rapid Strike 4. Dixie Dancer 5. Terrific 6. Loose Cannon

Deception

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

DURING a recent hearing conducted by the House committee on youth and sports development chaired by Rep. Monico Puentevella, softball president Manila Rep. Harry Angping admitted that the softball team that the Philippines sent to the Busan Asian Games was ill-prepared, the main reason why it lost badly in the just-ended Asiad. Worse, the squad that competed in Busan was composed of an entirely different set of players and not the junior team that was given the go-signal to carry the colors in the 14th edition of the Games.

"The coach has since then resigned while I have disbanded the team," said a visibly frustrated Angping, who became softball president only last June.

"This deception should not be allowed to go unpunished," said athletics chief Go Teng Kok, who asked the Ethics Committee of the Philippine Olympic Committee headed by Celso Dayrit to conduct an inquiry into the selection process made by POC officials prior to the Busan Asiad. "This 'bogus' team not only cost the taxpayers a huge sum of P1.6 million, but also showed the lack of management skills of POC officials. The Ethics Committee (chaired by Gen. Rene Cruz) should not allow itself to be a party to this deception."

Earlier, tennis president Buddy Andrada, once a staunch ally of Dayrit, questioned the POC decision to allow only one tennis player instead of the four it requested to go to Busan, complaining that tennis was left out in favor of softball. The money wasted on the softball team, Andrada said, could have been wisely spent for three additional tennis players to form a full squad that would have given our players the opportunity of participating in at least seven matches each. The POC decision to send only one player limited tennis to take part in the singles event, depriving it of the chance to compete in other events such as doubles and mixed doubles, Andrada added.

"These acts stink with political odor and seem to benefit only favored parties in our organization," Go said in his letter to Cruz. "The nation is watching us. Our athletes are very much aware of these developments. Our sworn duty as NSA officials is to protect the athletes at all times. We should reject any act to advance personal interests above all else."

RP tracksters beaten by world-class foes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BANGKOK—Three young Filipinos led by Palarong Pambansa standout Maricel Sibog got their baptism of fire and yielded against world-class rivals Monday night in the Asian junior track and field championships at the Thammasat Sports Complex here.

All of them failed to make it to the finals of their respective events as they got overwhelmed by fellow upstarts from powerhouse China, Korea, Japan and the former Russian republics.

Sibog, who is being groomed to fill the shoes of Elma Muros, faltered in the girls long jump where she placed 13th overall. Obviously intimidated by the formidable Chinese leapers, Sibog's best jump in the three-jump elimination was 5.48m, way short of her 5.66m personal best.

China bagged the gold and silver in the event through Lina Wang and Xiaohui Bi, who sprang to a distance of 6.29m and 6.26m, respectively.

Marjohn Salanawon placed fifth in 800m run heats and failed to qualify, registering a time of 1:59.75, about four seconds after heats winner Manoi Pushpakumara of Sri Lanka breasted the tape.

In the girls 800m, Rosel Espinas also didn't not make the final as she placed seventh in the heats with a time of 2:21.21, some nine seconds behind Kyrgyzstan's Anna Klyshkina who won the heats.

The results, though, didn't discourage athletics chief Go Teng Kok, who stressed that the athletes–all first-timers in international competition–are here to get their exposures needed to make the RP team for the 2003 Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam.

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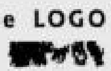
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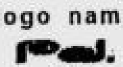
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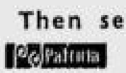
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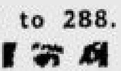
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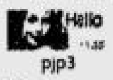
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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Metro transport strike fizzles out

By Leila B. Salaverria and Tina Santos

THE HALF day transport strike held yesterday to protest rising fuel prices failed to paralyze Metro Manila.

According to Metro Manila Development Authority Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel De Dios, traffic in Metro Manila was heaviest during the strike itself, when the group Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston) instructed their affiliated drivers to suspend their trips.

"I don't think the strike has affected Metro Manila much since only two groups joined it," he said in a phone interview. "Traffic was even heavy."

Vergel De Dios attributed the heavy traffic buildup to the MMDA's suspension of the Unified Vehicle Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP) or the color coding scheme.

The MMDA suspended the UVVRP in anticipation of Piston's strike.

Vergel De Dios also told the INQUIRER that police visibility was another reason why the transport strike failed to cripple Metro Manila.

"The police were deployed on the streets early so that the protesters were unable to block public utility vehicles and convince the drivers to join the strike," he said.

The traffic director said among the areas most affected by the strike were Monumento in Caloocan and Novaliches in Quezon City.

But according to a ranking Caloocan police officer, the situation in their city was "normal, as far as vehicular and pedestrian traffic is concerned."

Vergel de Dios said the MMDA had dispatched two buses each to the areas to assist stranded commuters.

He added that the number of stranded commuters were not big enough to conclude that the strike's effect was monumental.

"Granted, there were some who were stranded," Vergel de Dios said. "But (being stranded) is a daily occurrence isn't it?"

Those who joined the transport strike were mostly disappointed by the low turnout among the drivers and their supporters in the Kilusang Mayo Uno.

"It is disappointing to note that most did not cooperate, though they were aware of what we're fighting for," said jeepney driver Erick Estrapat, 43, of Valenzuela City.

MMDA takes on extort cops

By Leila B. Salaverria

METRO Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando will issue a memorandum prohibiting traffic enforcers without nameplates from apprehending motorists to prevent mulcting activities.

"All enforcers (without) nameplates caught apprehending violators will be charged with *kotong* (mulcting)," Fernando said on Monday.

He was reacting to complaints about enforcers extorting money from drivers who do not want to be issued traffic citations.

Fernando also said that if an enforcer is caught using the nameplate of another, that could be used as prima facie evidence of mulcting against him.

Muntinlupa scraps new traffic plan

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE NEW traffic scheme aimed at decongesting the busy Alabang interchange in Muntinlupa has just been scrapped.

City officials postponed the implementation of the new traffic program—which also called for the lifting of the controversial truck ban—moments after it was introduced yesterday, according to Vice Mayor Jo Jason Alcaraz.

The new scheme was supposed to ban vehicles from crossing or turning left along the interchange, located below the Alabang viaduct.

The suspension is expected to worsen the rift between truckers and officials over a citywide truck ban. The city council has banned trucks from the interchange between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m.

The monstrous traffic in the area was partly a result of the Philippine National Construction Corporation's decision to ban trucks weighing more than 20 tons from using the shaky Alabang viaduct.

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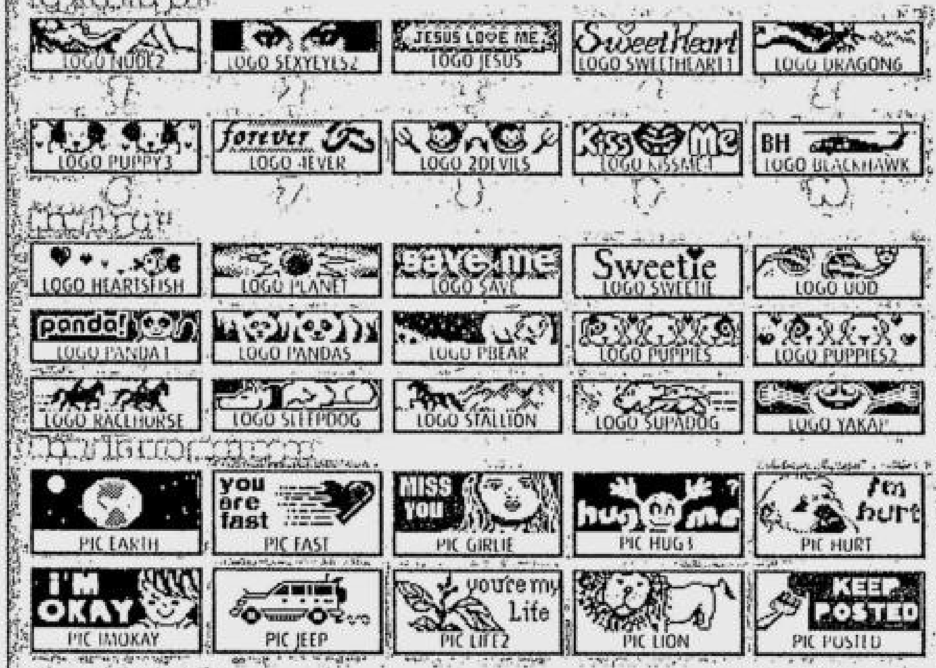

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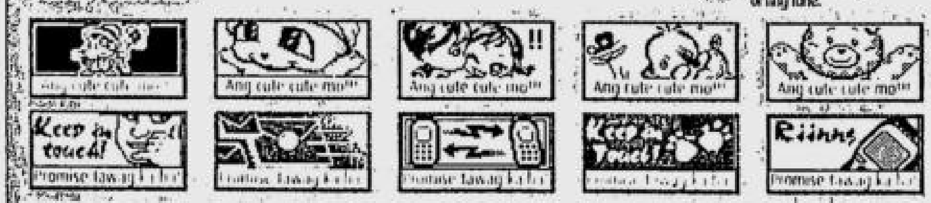
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Mikee and Manny head for center stage

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

PRIZEFIGHTING, you bet, is a game of cruel and sweet surprises.

But nobody could be more stunned than the Thai fighter who was promptly foiled in his otherwise legit bid to steal Manny Pacquiao's world boxing crown in Davao on Saturday.

Fabrakorb Rikkiatgym, after spending a restless night in a hospital where he was rushed to after being knocked out in the first round, took a 2 p.m. flight out of Davao on Monday.

The beaten boxer took a connecting flight to Bangkok later in the afternoon, said Soc Piñol who helped orchestrate the successful promotion behind the scene.

Fabrakorb did return home safely.

But all of a sudden, his career, which had appeared delightfully promising before the Pacquiao fight, looked uncertain.

His handlers confided that their fighter, who had hoped to return with the world title as a gift to his king and his people, would be made to rest before deciding whether or not he should continue fighting. He appeared ready for retirement.

***

That was the bitter side of it.

Meanwhile, his managers were still mulling over plans on whether Manny Pacquiao would get another big fight before the year ends.

One thing is clear, though, for the lone reigning Filipino world boxing champion: Pacquiao is finally headed to collect his first Athlete of the Year award.

And the honor, more than clearly deserved, should add extra sweetness to a fruitful year for the pride of GenSan.

Remember last year when Pacquiao skipped the awards show at the Holiday Inn, despite being honored as pro boxer of the year?

Pacquiao, obviously slighted, sent word he could not make it as he had to look after his newborn kid.

Well, the kid now walks about. But more than that, Pacquiao is more than ripe for the distinct accolade.

***

Which only promises that the year-end bash to honor top Filipino sportsmen would be both grand and memorable.

Pacquiao, the poor guy who made good, standing side by side and bathed in light with Mikee Cojuangco, easily the best thing to happen to amateur sports in a long, long time, would punctuate a colorful chapter in Philippine sports.

You see, these sports awards are normally arrived at through a vote among the country's sports chroniclers. Your reporter here has long stopped filling up his ballot.

But this early, I'm hereby sending my nominations. Manny and Mikee for a dream team-up at center stage in this year's Philippine Sports Writers Association awards night.

***

You all know how Mikee did it. Even the poor folks, the fish vendors, the obscure market-goers who don't know what equestrian is all about, now adore Princess Mikee as their own.

Mikee's gold medal finish in the Busan show jumping finals indeed thrived on fairytale details. Her gold, coming in the final hours of the Busan Games minutes before the Games flame was to be extinguished, gave life to an otherwise shaky Philippine campaign in the Asiad.

Mikee, sweet and sensational, however, tried to shy away from the spotlight and insisted the gold medal was a product of team effort.

Anyway, last Saturday inside the RMC Gym in Davao, all eyes were on Pacquiao. But after the first-round demolition of the Thai visitor, everybody had to rely on replays of the action to confirm how Pacquiao did it.

It was centrally not the story of four knockdowns, with the referee mercifully jumping in to stop the carnage.

There was no doubt the Thai, with solid and strong credentials, could've tagged and floored Pacquiao at any given moment.

But the first sharp punch Pacquiao landed—a lethal right cross to the chin—made the whole difference.

So it took Pacquiao, a left-hander, to perfect that killer right shot.

So it was deemed a vital addition to his arsenal as his Thai foe was also a southpaw, who would most likely be baring his chin once he launched an attack with his left hand.

The shift to the right hand was both brilliant and classic.

The sharp, crisp shot was totally unexpected.

It flashed like lightning, with the victim next reeling under heavy bombardment in the succeeding moments.

With his third sensational knockout win starting with the title clinching stoppage of Leblo Ledwabah, not a few experts have started to look for an apt label for the brown bomber from GenSan, who completed his demolition in Davao with his hair tinted blonde.

There are also those who swear Manny Pacquiao is the best thing that ever happened to Philippine boxing after Flash Elorde.

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It's a controlled dumpsite, Fernando insists

By Leila B. Salaverria and Christian V. Esguerra

A CONTROLLED dumpsite.

This was how Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday described a dumpsite in Marikina City that the National Solid Waste Commission president Albert Magalang said was illegal.

Fernando, former mayor of Marikina, also said the dumpsite had a permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"It's called a controlled dumpsite," Fernando stressed, referring to the dumpsite in Doña Petra Subdivision in Marikina. "It has a permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources."

Fernando, who was mayor of Marikina for the last three terms, said the dumpsite has been operating "on and off" for 10 years because the city needs it.

Magalang said on Monday that in 1995, the commission had issued a closure order against the dumpsite, but it has not been enforced. He said Fernando's wife, Marides, who is now mayor of Marikina, refuses to enforce the closure order.

But Fernando, who is credited for turning the city into a clean and disciplined community, yesterday turned the tables on the complainants, saying those who are against the dumpsite are the ones living dangerously close to it.

"Those whom we've asked to leave the area are the ones aggravating the situation," Fernando said. "They are not permitted to live near the dumpsite."

Magalang has said the dumpsite was a threat to public health, emitting noxious fumes that caused a rash of respiratory illnesses among residents.

Fernando, however, claimed the dumpsite is sanitary. "You can even visit it if you want," he told the INQUIRER.

The environmental group Greenpeace yesterday urged Marikina residents to sue Fernando and his wife Marides over the dumpsite.

Von Hernandez, president of Greenpeace Philippines, said the NSWC should hold the Fernando couple accountable for the continued operation of the dumpsite.

"There's no reason why the illegal dumpsite should not be closed," Hernandez said.

Caloocan court snags Malabon property claim

By Tina Santos

MALABON City's claim over the disputed 40 hectares of land in Libis, Baesa has suffered a setback after a court granted Caloocan City officials' petition for a writ of preliminary injuction.

Judge Adoracion Angeles of Caloocan RTC Branch 121 has ordered Malabon officials under suspended Mayor Amado Vicencio, to stop implementing Section 2 of Republic Act 9019, which converted Malabon into a city and redefined its boundaries to include Barangay 160 and 161.

The court also restrained the Malabon government from exercising judicial, administrative, operational and supervisory powers and jurisdiction over the area, which Caloocan has been claiming.

But the court stressed that the writ was issued to maintain status quo in the area.

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"The residents have always recognized themselves as governed by Caloocan as they have accordingly paid taxes, obtained community tax certificates and participated in the electoral processes of the city," said Judge Angeles in a five-page resolution.

Mikee and Manny head for center stage

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

PRIZEFIGHTING, you bet, is a game of cruel and sweet surprises.

But nobody could be more stunned than the Thai fighter who was promptly foiled in his otherwise legit bid to steal Manny Pacquiao's world boxing crown in Davao on Saturday.

Fabrakorb Rikkiatgym, after spending a restless night in a hospital where he was rushed to after being knocked out in the first round, took a 2 p.m. flight out of Davao on Monday.

The beaten boxer took a connecting flight to Bangkok later in the afternoon, said Soc Piñol who helped orchestrate the successful promotion behind the scene.

Fabrakorb did return home safely.

But all of a sudden, his career, which had appeared delightfully promising before the Pacquiao fight, looked uncertain.

His handlers confided that their fighter, who had hoped to return with the world title as a gift to his king and his people, would be made to rest before deciding whether or not he should continue fighting. He appeared ready for retirement.

***

That was the bitter side of it.

Meanwhile, his managers were still mulling over plans on whether Manny Pacquiao would get another big fight before the year ends.

One thing is clear, though, for the lone reigning Filipino world boxing champion: Pacquiao is finally headed to collect his first Athlete of the Year award.

And the honor, more than clearly deserved, should add extra sweetness to a fruitful year for the pride of GenSan.

Remember last year when Pacquiao skipped the awards show at the Holiday Inn, despite being honored as pro boxer of the year?

Pacquiao, obviously slighted, sent word he could not make it as he had to look after his newborn kid.

Well, the kid now walks about. But more than that, Pacquiao is more than ripe for the distinct accolade.

Which only promises that the year-end bash to honor top Filipino sportsmen would be both grand and memorable.

Pacquiao, the poor guy who made good, standing side by side and bathed in light with Mikee Cojuangco, easily the best thing to happen to amateur sports in a long, long time, would punctuate a colorful chapter in Philippine sports.

You see, these sports awards are normally arrived at through a vote among the country's sports chroniclers. Your reporter here has long stopped filling up his ballot.

But this early, I'm hereby sending my nominations. Manny and Mikee for a dream team-up at center stage in this year's Philippine Sports Writers Association awards night.

***

You all know how Mikee did it. Even the poor folks, the fish vendors, the obscure market-goers who don't know what equestrian is all about, now adore Princess Mikee as their own.

Mikee's gold medal finish in the Busan show jumping finals indeed thrived on fairytale details. Her gold, coming in the final hours of the Busan Games minutes before the Games flame was to be extinguished, gave life to an otherwise shaky Philippine campaign in the Asiad.

Mikee, sweet and sensational, however, tried to shy away from the spotlight and insisted the gold medal was a product of team effort.

Anyway, last Saturday inside the RMC Gym in Davao, all eyes were on Pacquiao. But after the first-round demolition of the Thai visitor, everybody had to rely on replays of the action to confirm how Pacquiao did it.

It was centrally not the story of four knockdowns, with the referee mercifully jumping in to stop the carnage.

There was no doubt the Thai, with solid and strong credentials, could've tagged and floored Pacquiao at any given moment.

But the first sharp punch Pacquiao landed—a lethal right cross to the chin—made the whole difference.

So it took Pacquino, a left-hander, to perfect that killer right shot.

So it was deemed a vital addition to his arsenal as his Thai foe was also a southpaw, who would most likely be baring his chin once he launched an attack with his left hand.

The shift to the right hand was both brilliant and classic.

The sharp, crisp shot was totally unexpected.

It flashed like lightning, with the victim next reeling under heavy bombardment in the succeeding moments.

With his third sensational knockout win starting with the title clinching stoppage of Leblo Ledwabah, not a few experts have started to look for an apt label for the brown bomber from GenSan, who completed his demolition in Davao with his hair tinted blonde.

There are also those who swear Manny Pacquiao is the best thing that ever happened to Philippine boxing after Flash Elorde.

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It's a controlled dumpsite, Fernando insists

By Leila B. Salaverria and Christian V. Esguerra

A CONTROLLED dumpsite.

This was how Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday described a dumpsite in Marikina City that the National Solid Waste Commission president Albert Magalang said was illegal.

Fernando, former mayor of Marikina, also said the dumpsite had a permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"It's called a controlled dumpsite," Fernando stressed, referring to the dumpsite in Doña Petra Subdivision in Marikina. "It has a permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources."

Fernando, who was mayor of Marikina for the last three terms, said the dumpsite has been operating "on and off" for 10 years because the city needs it.

Magalang said on Monday that in 1995, the commission had issued a closure order against the dumpsite, but it has not been enforced. He said Fernando's wife, Marides, who is now mayor of Marikina, refuses to enforce the closure order.

But Fernando, who is credited for turning the city into a clean and disciplined community, yesterday turned the tables on the complainants, saying those who are against the dumpsite are the ones living dangerously close to it.

"Those whom we've asked to leave the area are the ones aggravating the situation," Fernando said. "They are not permitted to live near the dumpsite."

Magalang has said the dumpsite was a threat to public health, emitting noxious fumes that caused a rash of respiratory illnesses among residents.

Fernando, however, claimed the dumpsite is sanitary. "You can even visit it if you want," he told the INQUIRER.

The environmental group Greenpeace yesterday urged Marikina residents to sue Fernando and his wife Marides over the dumpsite.

Von Hernandez, president of Greenpeace Philippines, said the NSWC should hold the Fernando couple accountable for the continued operation of the dumpsite.

"There's no reason why the illegal dumpsite should not be closed," Hernandez said.

Caloocan court snags Malabon property claim

By Tina Santos

MALABON City's claim over the disputed 40 hectares of land in Libis, Baesa has suffered a setback after a court granted Caloocan City officials' petition for a writ of preliminary injuction.

Judge Adoracion Angeles of Caloocan RTC Branch 121 has ordered Malabon officials under suspended Mayor Amado Vicencio, to stop implementing Section 2 of Republic Act 9019, which converted Malabon into a city and redefined its boundaries to include Barangay 160 and 161.

The court also restrained the Malabon government from exercising judicial, administrative, operational and supervisory powers and jurisdiction over the area, which Caloocan has been claiming.

But the court stressed that the writ was issued to maintain status quo in the area.

The court said that to allow Malabon to exercise control and administration of the area while the case is pending, will only cause confusion and may even harm residents of the area.

The petitioners, led by Caloocan Councilor Henry P. Cammayo, claimed that Section 2 of RA No. 9019, authored by Malabon-Navotas Rep. Ricky Sandoval, "substantially altered the territory of Caloocan," when Malabon annexed the two communities without consulting affected residents.

"The residents have always recognized themselves as governed by Caloocan as they have accordingly paid taxes, obtained community tax certificates and participated in the electoral processes of the city," said Judge Angeles in a five-page resolution.

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SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
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1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 BEDTIME STORIES

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
2 MR. DEEDS
3 SINGSING NI LOLA
4 RED DRAGON
5 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
6 BLOODWORK

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

WATCH OUT FOR THE OPENING ON NOVEMBER 29, 2002

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

WATCH OUT FOR THE OPENING ON NOVEMBER 15, 2002

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 RED DRAGON
12:10 FS/12:40 MF/3:15/5:50/8:25/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
11:40 FS/12:10/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/
10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SERVER
2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3 BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
4 THE TUXEDO
5 SINGSING NI LOLA
6 PLUTO NASH
7 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
8 RED DRAGON
9 BEDTIME STORIES
10 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

MATINEE PRICE: P80 THX cinema / P65 Regular cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1 OPENS ON NOV. 13 - HARRY POTTER
2 BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
3 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 SINGSING NI LOLA
6 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
7 RED DRAGON

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1 JEANNIE... BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
2 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SERVER
3 9 MORNINGS
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 SINGSING NI LOLA
7 RED DRAGON
8 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 9 MORNINGS
2 RED DRAGON
3 MR. DEEDS
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 JEANNIE...BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
7 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
8 SINGSING NI LOLA

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 JEANNIE...BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
2 BEDTIME STORIES
3 9 MORNINGS
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
6

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 MR. DEEDS
2 BLOODWORKS
3 BESTMAN
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 MR. DEEDS
2 POSSESSION
3 BIRTHDAY GIRL
4 THE TOUCH
5 SINGSING NI LOLA
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270

1 BIRTHDAY GIRL
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 GHOST SHIP
4 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

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http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

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Metro East PASIG : MEP
Novaliches : NOVA
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Starmills : STAR
Iloilo : ILO
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For sreening times, call 729-7777
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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ALL DIGITAL SOUND CINEMAS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
9 MORNINGS	BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER	THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30	RED DRAGON 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50, 11:30	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
	MR. DEEDS / GHOST SHIP(MIDNIGHT SCREENING)			
RED DRAGON	SWEET HOME ALABAMA 12:30, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF	SWEET HOME ALABAMA 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20 8:50 11:20	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
			BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF 12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30	RED DRAGON
SINGSING NI LOLA	PLUTO NASH	REGINE VELASQUEZ - SONGBIRD SONGS NOV. 8-9, 21-22-23, 29-30 / DEC. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28	BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 11:30	9 MORNINGS
	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF			
SWEET HOME ALABAMA	RED DRAGON		MR. DEEDS 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	PLUTO NASH
	HALLOWEEN: RESURRECTION			

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4 (or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333
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GSC Guaranteed Seats Cinema

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METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 BED TIME STORY
2 RED DRAGON
3 TUXEDO
4 PLUTO NASH
5 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
6 BALISTIC ECK VS' SEVER
7 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
8 NINE MORNING
9 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
10 SINGSING NI LOLA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1
2
3
4
5
6
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274

1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 BED TIME STOPY
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
2 BED TIME STOPY
3 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
4 SINGSING NI LOLA
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 BALISTIC ECK VS' SEVER

star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1 SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
PREMIERE NIGHT
"CHANGING LANES" OCT. 30, 7:30 PM
OCT. 30, E HALLOWEEN PARTY TIME 9:30 PM
OCT. 31, HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION 9:30 PM
OCT 31 NOV 3 STA CLAUS-2 STARTS AT 5 PM

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 TUXEDO
2 NINE MORNING

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
2 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 BED TIME STORY

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 SINGSING NI LOLA
4 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
6 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
7 RED DRAGON
8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
9 HALLOWEEN RESURRETION

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 RESERVI

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 NINE MORNING
6 RED DRAGON
7 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
8 MUNTING TINIG
9 BED TIME STORY

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1 NINE MORNING
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 RED DRAGON

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 NINE MORNING
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 BED TIME STORY
4 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 SINGSING NI LOLA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 SINGSING NI LOLA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson BED TIME STORY
Imelda HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
Jennet ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 533.3856

1 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 BED TIME STORY

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 BED TIME STORY
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
4 SINGSING NI LOLA
5 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 879.2029

1 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
2 SINGSING NI LOLA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 RED DRAGON
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 BALISTIC ECK VS' SEVER
6 NINE MORNING
7 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
2 SINGSING NI LOLA

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 BED TIME STORY
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 SINGSING NI LOLA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 NINE MORNING
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3 NINE MORNING
4 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 NINE MORNING
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
4 RESERVI

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
4 BLOOD WORK

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 MUNTING TINIG
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 BEDTIME STORY
4 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 BEDTIME STORY
4 BLOOD WORK
5 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 BEDTIME STORY

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
3 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 POSSESSION
2 TUXEDO
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
4 [illegible]

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
2 RESERVI

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 MASIKIP MAINIT
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

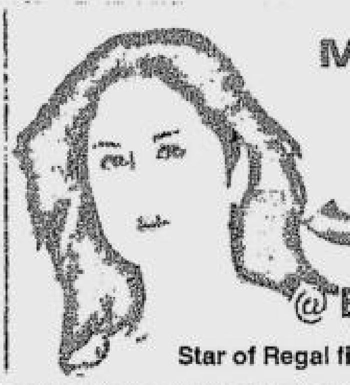
1 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
2 MR. DEEDS
3 MASIKIP MAINIT..
4 PLUTO NASH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 RED DRAGON
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
3 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4 POSSESSION

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



Meet
JOYCE JIMENEZ
Ever malls
On October 20 2002 [illegible] on
@ EVER GOTESCO GRAND CENTRAL
Star of Regal film's MASIKIP, MAINIT, PARAISONG PARISUKAT

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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
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SM CITY BACOOR
4173888

1 9 MORNINGS
2 BEDTIME STORIES
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
4 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
5 RED DRAGON
6 SINGSING NI LOLA
7 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 THE TUXEDO
3 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
5 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
6 BEDTIME STORIES
7 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
8 RED DRAGON
9 9 MORNINGS
10 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 PLUTO NASH
2 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
3 THE TUXEDO
4 RED DRAGON
5 9 MORNINGS
6 SINGSING NI LOLA
7 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
9 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
10 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
11 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN...
12 BEDTIME STORIES

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 THE TUXEDO
2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3 RED DRAGON
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 MR.DEEDS
6 BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
7 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
8 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
9 SINGSING NI LOLA
10 BEDTIME STORIES
11 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
12 9 MORNINGS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 THE TUXEDO
2 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
3 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
4 RED DRAGON
5 BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
6 MR. DEEDS
7 BEDTIME STORIES
8 9 MORNINGS
9 SINGSING NI LOLA
10 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
11 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
12 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 9 MORNINGS
2 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 BEDTIME STORIES
4 SINGSING NI LOLA
5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
7 RED DRAGON
8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1 9 MORNINGS
2 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
3 RED DRAGON
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 BEDTIME STORIES
6 PLUTO NASH
7 SINGSING NI LOLA
8 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
9 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
10 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 RED DRAGON
2 MR.DEEDS
3 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS.
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 BEDTIME STORIES
6 9 MORNINGS
7 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
8 SINGSING NI LOLA

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 BIRTHDAY GIRL
2 CLOSED
3 THE TOUCH
4 SINGSING NI LOLA
5 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
6 MR. DEEDS
7 CLOSED
8 POSSESSION

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 9 MORNINGS
5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
6 SINGSING NI LOLA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
2 RED DRAGON
3 SINGSING NI LOLA
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 BEDTIME STORIES

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
2 MR. DEEDS
3 SINGSING NI LOLA
4 RED DRAGON
5 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
6 BLOODWORK

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
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WATCH OUT FOR THE OPENING ON NOVEMBER 29, 2002

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4
WATCH OUT FOR THE OPENING ON NOVEMBER 15, 2002

THE PODIUM CINEMA
633-8976

RED DRAGON
12:10 FS/12:40 MF/3:15/5:50/8:25/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

SWEET HOME ALABAMA
11:40 FS/12:10/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

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MATINEE PRICE: P80 THX cinema / P65 tlevel cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

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3 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
4 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
5 SINGSING NI LOLA
6 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
7 RED DRAGON

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1 JEANNIE... BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
2 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SERVER
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5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 SINGSING NI LOLA
7 RED DRAGON
8 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1 9 MORNINGS
2 RED DRAGON
3 MR. DEEDS
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 JEANNIE...BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
7 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
8 SINGSING NI LOLA

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 JEANNIE...BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
2 BEDTIME STORIES
3 9 MORNINGS
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
6

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1 MR. DEEDS
2 BLOODWORKS
3 BESTMAN
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1 MR. DEEDS
2 POSSESSION
3 BIRTHDAY GIRL
4 THE TOUCH
5 SINGSING NI LOLA
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

Star Mills- Sn Fernendo, Pamp. 875- 1927 961- 5318 / 5270

1 BIRTHDAY GIRL
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3 GHOST SHIP
4 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

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Starmills :	STAR
Iloilo :	ILO
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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Patricia Javier performs at Ratsky—as a singer

WATCH sexy star Patricia Javier strut her stuff on stage with The A-Petite Band tonight at Ratsky on Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City.

For inquiries, call 373-9882 to 84. Tickets are priced at P500.

Sex Bomb at Suburbia

THERE'S really no stopping the Sex Bomb Girls from blasting their way to the top. After a series of successful shows at the Music Museum, the girls will perform tomorrow night, 9 p.m., at Surburbia in Adriatico, Malate.

"Yo! My Sex Bomb at Suburbia" will also feature comedienne Ruby Rodriguez as special guest.

The girls will dance to the hit songs from their certified-platinum album, "Unang Putok" from BMG Records.

Tickets at P500 are sold at Suburbia, Focus E Office and all Ponciana's outlets.

Call 450-1685 to 86, 415-5445, 410-3159 or 0918-9002248 for inquiries.

"Yo! My Sex Bomb at Suburbia" is presented by Petron Rev-X, Gilbey's Island Punch, Crimson, BMG Pilipinas, Blue Chips and Ponciana's.

SHOWS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS / LAMAN
ODEON	GHOST SHIP
ODEON-2	BABAHA NG DUGO / KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
ROBEN	BOMBA QUEEN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MIB / INSOMNIA
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BOMBA QUEEN
REMAR	BOMBA QUEEN
REMAR-2	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
B	HUWAG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-2	POSSESSION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
CINEMA-2	BEDTIME STORIES
CINEMA-3	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STRAIGHT SHOT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HALLOWEEN RESSURECTION
CINEMA-6	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-7	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-8	TUXEDO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	GHOSTSHIP (10/31)
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SANTA CLAUS 2 (10/31)
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
CINEMA-12	RED DRAGON
CINEMA-14	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
CINEMA-15	SINGSING NI LOLA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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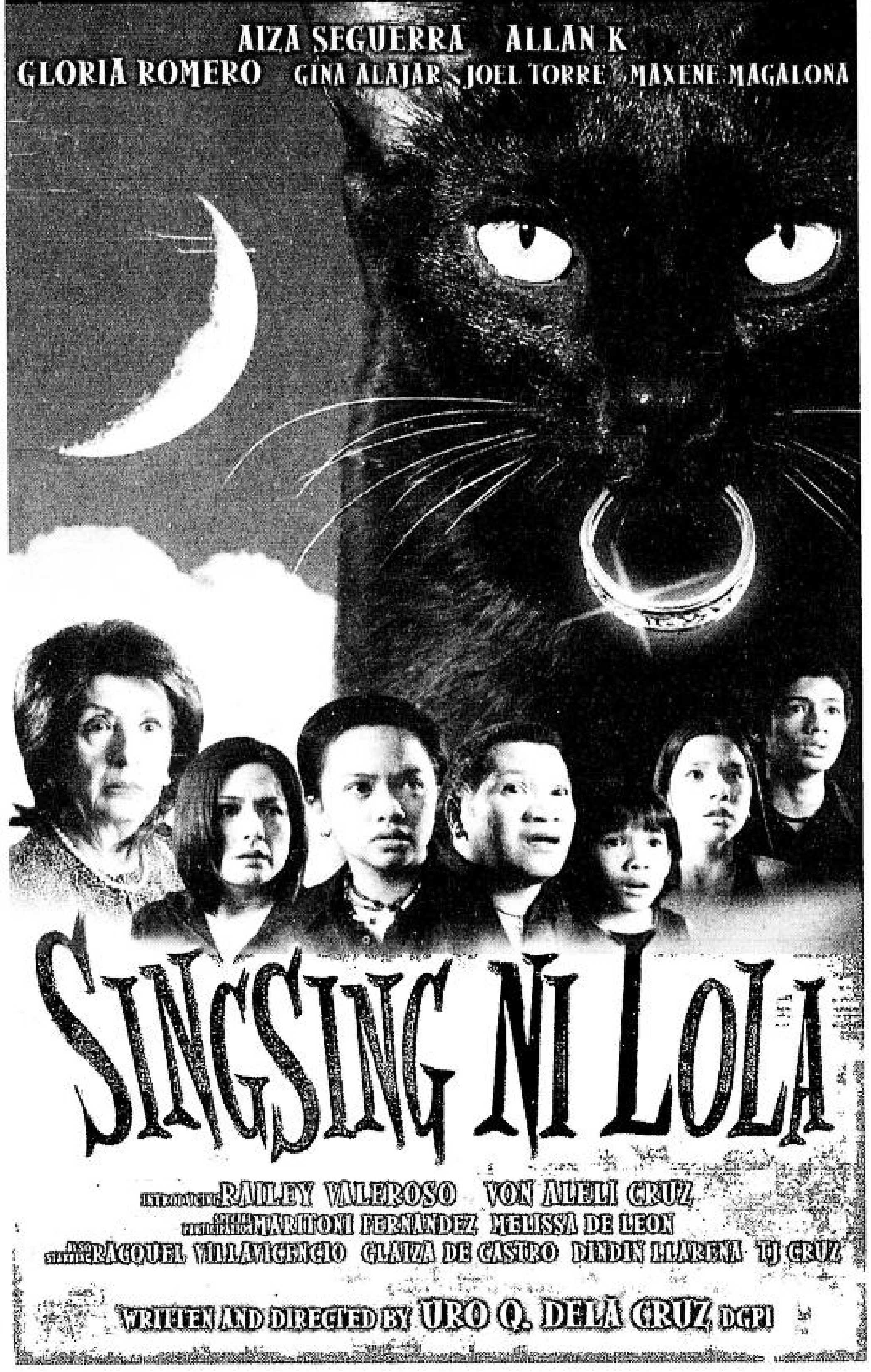
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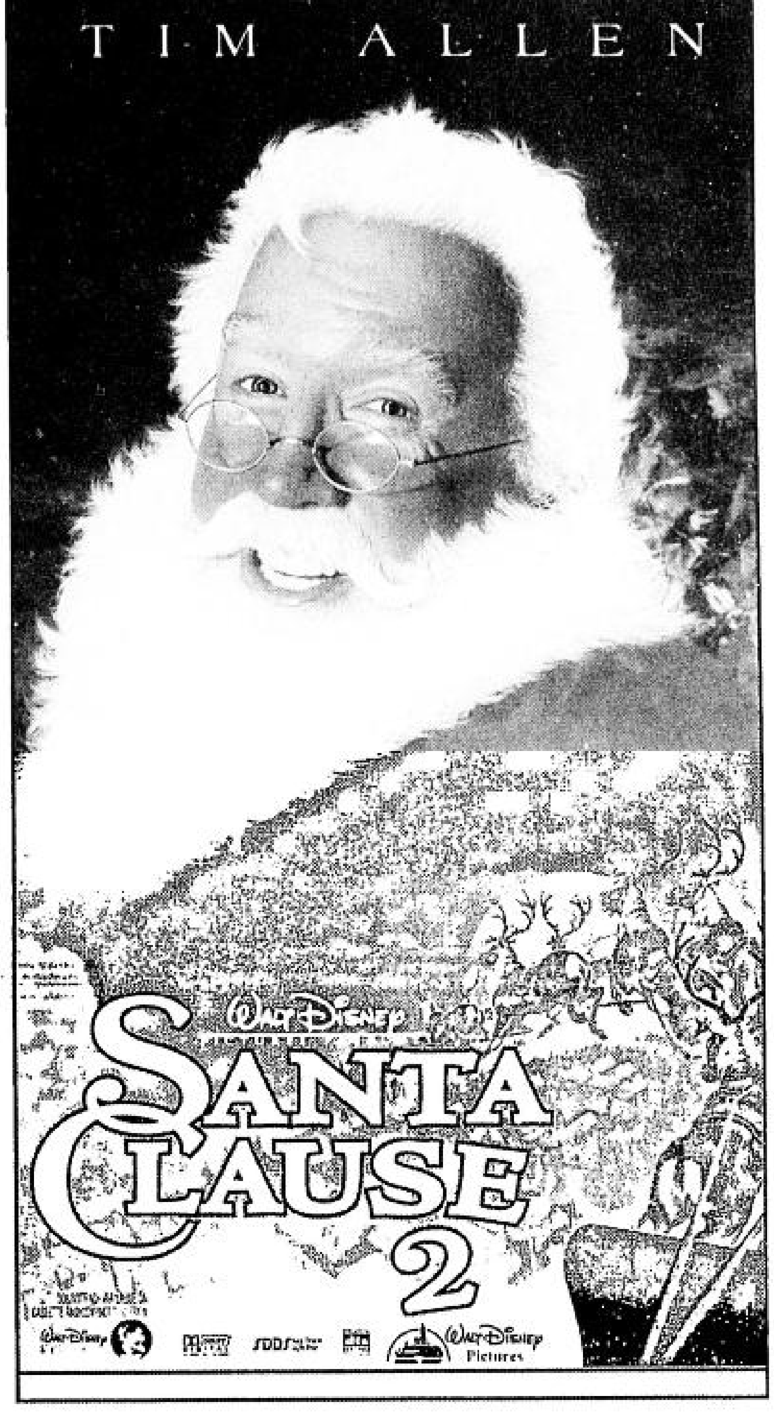
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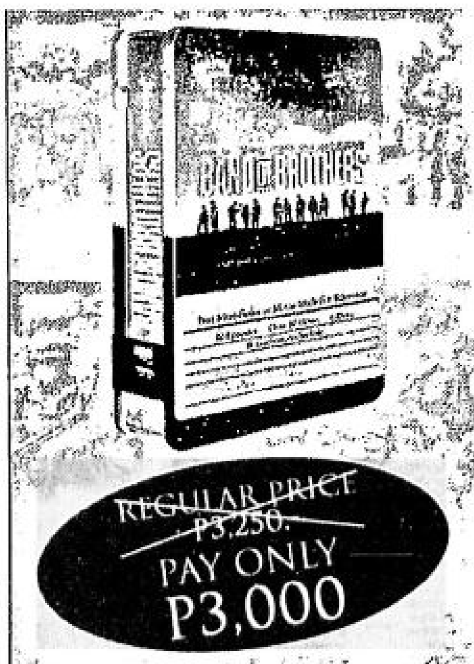
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Bobby Gonzales, the idol who became a friend

By Rey G. Vicente
Contributor

SINGERS come and go. Youth, popularity, beauty, nothing endures forever. A new face, a few hit songs that catch the public's fancy: instant fame. The fickle taste of the public wanes and today's celebrity suddenly becomes tomorrow's has-been.

Early this month, over coffee in his office-clinic, my dentist friend Cholo Santos informed me of the death of Bobby Gonzales last Oct. 5. He said the singer, during one of his last television interviews, was still expressing hope that he could return to show business even when he was already sick. Show business had been his life, after all.

Years without communication with Bobby reduced the shock I felt, but not the sadness.

Many years ago, another friend had invited me to dine at Hotel Nikko, which led to an encounter with a singer who was real to me only when I was too young to understand celebrity. I was also too concerned with my studies to bother about domestic squabbles between an invalid husband, a young daughter and a wife who adored—no, worshipped—a young, handsome singer who had been performing at the Clover Theater, which was then located at the foot of the Sta. Cruz bridge in Manila.

The members of the squabbling family were my neighbors. *Aling* Mameng, the wife, was an attractive woman in her late thirties. Though her crippled husband disapproved vehemently of her mad obsession with her favorite singer, she carried on with her daily housekeeping chores like the good, faithful wife she was always known to be. She didn't think it was a crime to fill the walls of the bedroom she shared with her husband with huge pictures from magazines of her idol. The robust, dimpled, young singer stared down from the photos on the walls at *Aling* Mameng's immobilized husband, whose legs had atrophied due to an illness.

Surely, she never meant to mock him with those photos, or she was unaware of the cruel implications. Still, in the husband's mind, she was being unfaithful.

From his sickbed, the husband would scream at her: "*Bakit hindi ka pa sa* Clover *tumira?*"

She would quietly slip out of the kitchen door with her umbrella, walk through the garden and out of the gate, closing it gently to the tune of the invalid's asthmatic coughing and their daughter's sobbing.

This noontime scenario, repeated over the years decades ago, had no significance whatsoever for me. I was too young then, too unyielding to accommodate certain feelings, like the sentiments of a love-struck fan for a stage matinee idol. Until the husband's death, he never forgave her. The last I heard of her was when she transferred residence after the daughter eloped with a houseboy when she was only 12.

The Intramuros Bar was a cozy drinking place and music lounge at the Hotel Nikko Manila Garden. That night with my friend, I enjoyed my after-dinner beer and was warmed by the electric excitement of the crowd that was filling the place.

Then, a breathless hush fell over the entire semi-darkened place. A voice, at first soft and pleading, dominated the sounds of guitar strumming. It was a voice so familiar, yet forgotten, so powerful that it drowned even the vocal accompaniment by the backup trio.

I couldn't see the singer from where we were seated, but there was no doubt from the applause at the end of each song that here was a talent not to be ignored. Only after a seeming eternity of encores did the eager audience allow the singer to take a break. And then my friend asked if I would like to meet the singer.

A request was whispered to an attendant. Soon, a smiling man joined us at our table and introductions were made. Suddenly, there he was. Slim, but not frail. The dimples were now gentle creases on a boyish face that time and fame had conspired to preserve.

I found myself drifting even as I heard him speak. It was not the wit and humor, for which he was known, that fascinated me. It was his poise, an artist's studied grace that bordered on the theatrical. There was something about his presence that commanded—not invited—attention.

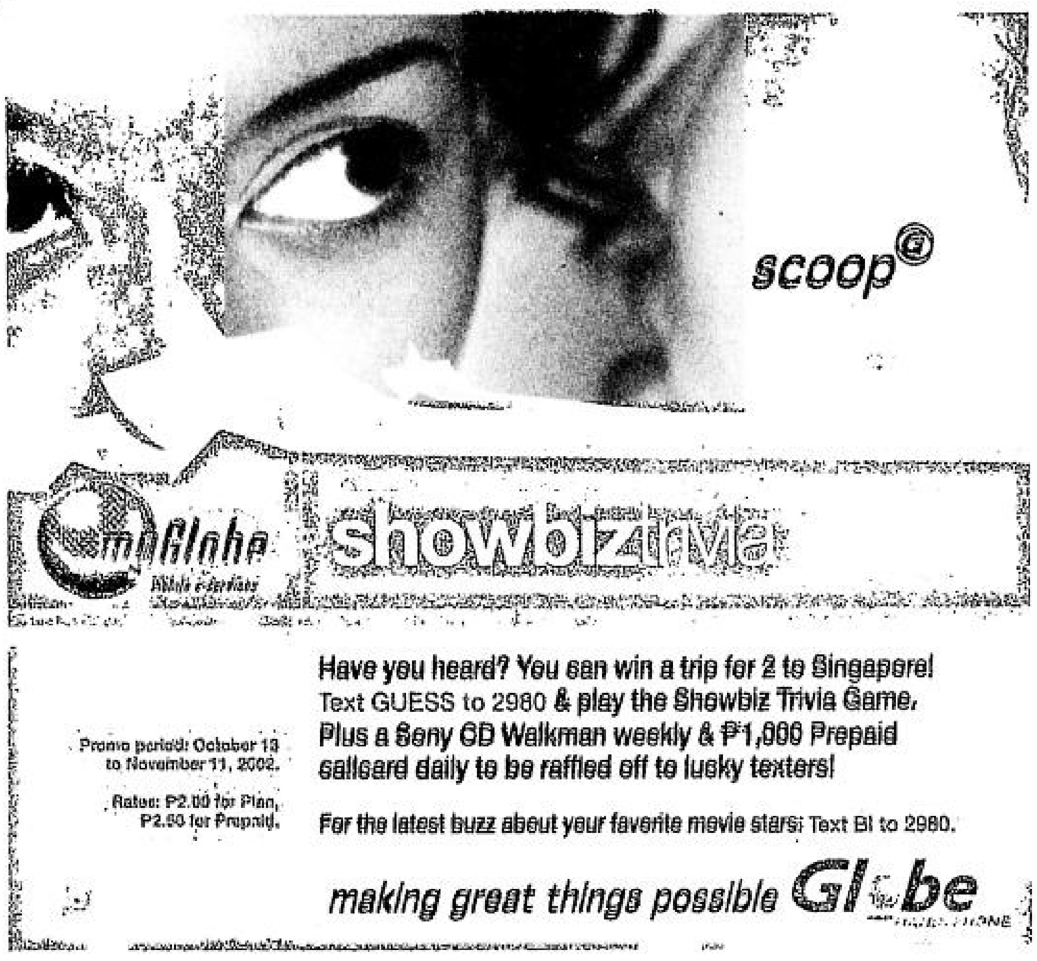
My mind was racing back in time. I was a kid again. Looking out of a window at a scene that kept replaying itself, wearing out the grooves of my memory. The housewife all dressed and made up to meet a secret paramour. The crying child, the shower of curses from the dying husband.

And now, in the music lounge, here at last was the idol upon whose altar on the stages of the Manila Grand Opera House and Clover Theater a wife had sacrificed her husband's life, her daughter's and her own. Bobby Gonzales, who would become a friend.

He earned and deserved the respect and admiration of his countrymen. He was an ambassador of goodwill and an entertainment icon in the '50s and '60s, a vestige of the days when entertainers used genuine voices and talent, unaided by electronic enhancers, to capture and sustain the magic of many an enchanted evening.

And now Bobby Gonzales is dead.

GONZALES in the '50s. He earned and deserved the respect and admiration of his countrymen.



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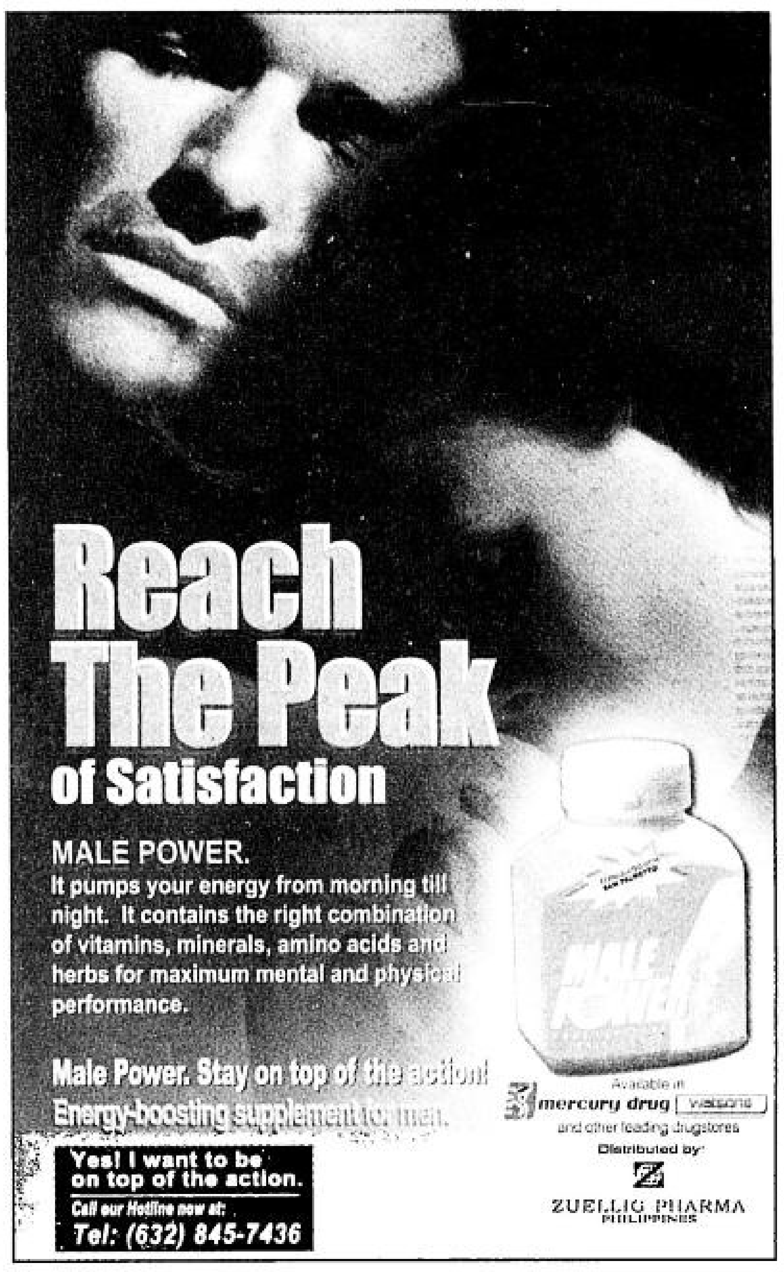

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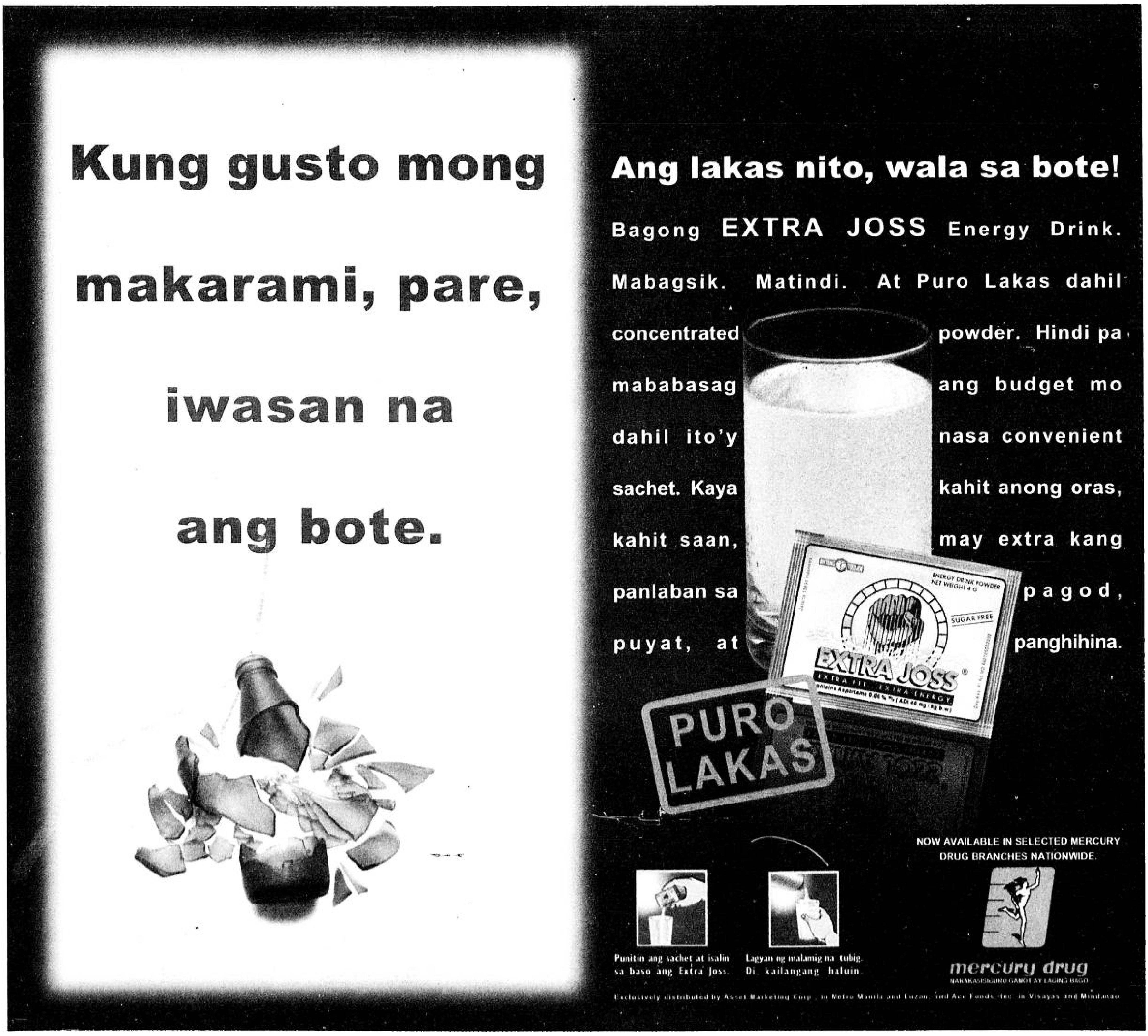

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What slump? Regal's latest costs ₱40 million

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THE LAST time Regal Entertainment spent a fortune on a special effects movie was in "Spirit Warriors," which became a top grosser in last December's Metro Manila Film Festival.

Regal also produced "Yamashita," which boasted of period visual effects thrills, complete with World War II planes and ships.

For its 40th anniversary in November, Regal hopes to cash in on another film loaded with spectacular effects. "Singsing ni Lola" is a P40-million Halloween offering which is the sequel to last year's "Bahay ni Lola," another topgrossing filmfest entry.

The sequel brings back the winning tandem of **Aiza Seguerra** and **Allan K**, with veteran actresses **Gloria Romero** and **Gina Alajar.**

To produce the horror-suspense thriller, Regal teamed up with visual effects outfit Optima Digital, which has won awards for best special effects in such films as "Jose Rizal" and "Muro-Ami."

Like "Bahay ni Lola," **Uro De la Cruz** wrote and directed "Singsing ni Lola," which revolves around a mysterious grandmother's ring in the possession of Kristal, a menacing black cat which has certain powers it wields over humans.

"This time around, we're bigger in scope and visual special effects, and definitely much bigger in the fright factor," says De la Cruz. "We take the horror and adventure to a grander scale."

He says the cat is capable of morphing in shape. The feline terror can also talk and act like a medium and its prowling presence is the key to many mysteries.

Optima Digital supplies the computer generated images (CGI). Using the Inferno technology, the most popular special effects tool in Hollywood today, Optima Digital, through computer artists led by visual effects expert **Marc Ambat,** creates the graphic design and wizardry.

"We played around with the cat's frightful charm," says De la Cruz.

Also starring in "Singsing ni Lola" are **Joel Torre, Maxene Magalona, Glaiza de Castro, Dindin Llarena, TJ Cruz, Dexter Doria** and **Raquel Villavicencio,** with the special participation of **Maritoni Fernandez** and **Melissa de Leon.** Introducing are **Railey Valeroso** and **Von Aleli Cruz.**

De la Cruz is optimistic that "Singsing ni Lola" will equal, if not surpass, the success of its predecessor.

"We all need a good scare and a big scream every now and then," De la Cruz says.

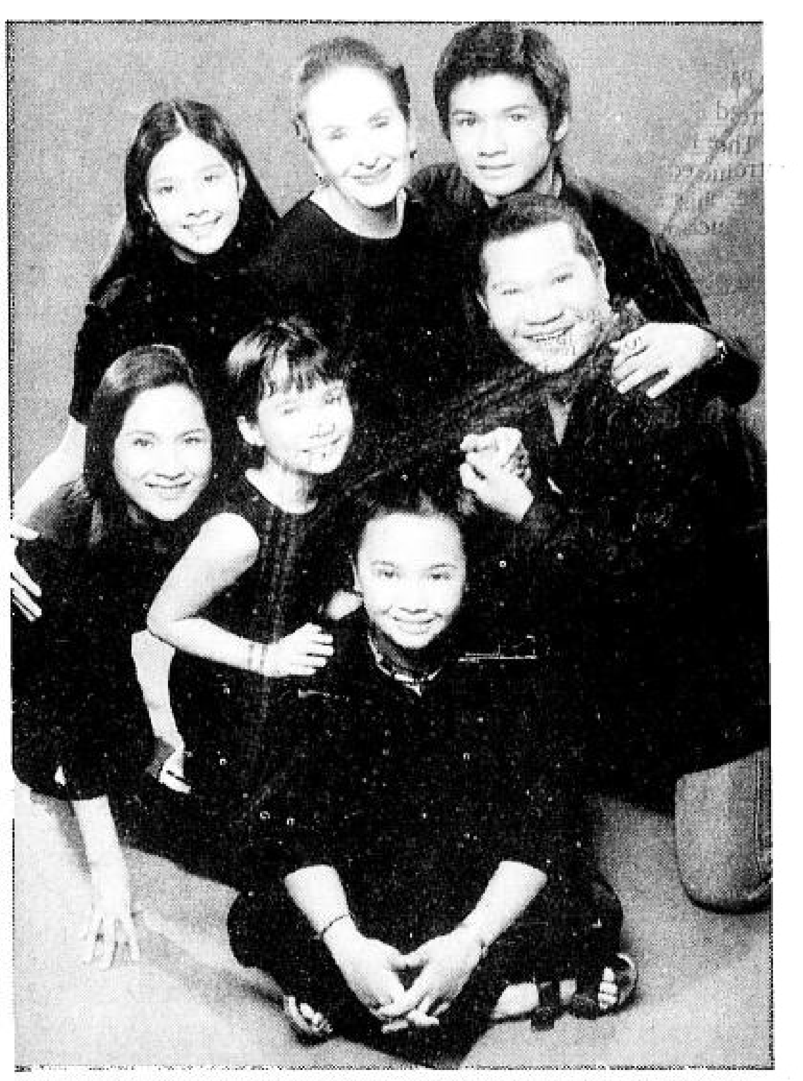
"Singsing ni Lola" would have been another entry in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival. But Regal matriarch **Lily Monteverde,** who knows better, decided not to field the suspense-horror thriller in the filmfest.

The film outfit bankrolls the sequel to "Spirit Warriors 2," now in the production stage, with **Chito Roño** again at the helm.

Mother Lily assures the public Regal will continue to produce not just films that will entertain but also quality pictures that the local film industry can be proud of.

Despite the slump in local cinema, Regal showed no letup. While it may have slowed down by producing fewer films, the outfit remains very much in the thick of things in the film production business.

Now working closely with Mother Lily in keeping up the Regal legacy are her daughter **Roselle** who helps her in producing and promotion, and her son **Dondon** who also manages Regal talents.



STARS OF THE SEQUEL. "Singsing ni Lola" cast (clockwise) Gloria Romero, Railey Valeroso, Allan K, Aiza Seguerra, Dindin Llarena, Gina Alajar, Maxene Magalona.

SPECIAL effects are the highlights of the suspense-horror thriller.

Exclusive contract

CONGRATULATIONS to our media colleague, **Ronald Carballo,** who recently signed an exclusive contract with Filmex-GMA 7 and joined the creative team as the episode writer of the tele-novela "Ang Iibigin ay Ikaw" (Mondays to Fridays, 7-7:30 p.m. on GMA 7).

Ronald started his career as a scriptwriter on ABS-CBN in 1988, when he wrote for "The Maricel Drama Special." He later became one of the pioneering writers of the drama anthology "Maalaala Mo Kaya" in 1991. He also created the concept and wrote the early scripts of the ongoing ABS-CBN soap, "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay."

Ronald has won awards for his work. One of his best scripts in "Maalaala Mo Kaya" is "Chicken Feet," which won in the recently concluded Star Awards for TV, given by the Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC).

So why did he leave ABS-CBN after 14 years?

"But I'm not burning my bridges," he says. "This is God's perfect gift to me in His time. I'm happy now with my new network family."

CARBALLO. Joins the GMA 7 family.

Ayen's baby

FRANCO Laurel and **Ayen Munji** are now proud parents of a baby girl, **Angia,** who was born Monday night at 10:11 p.m.

"She is truly a blessing," said Franco of his baby. "God is truly good."

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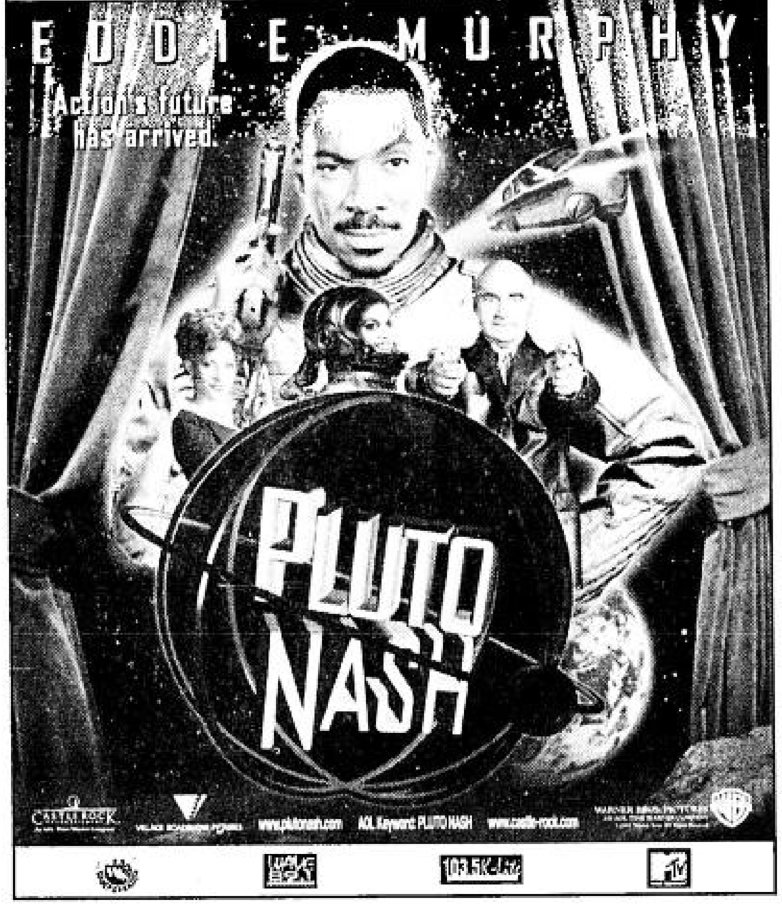

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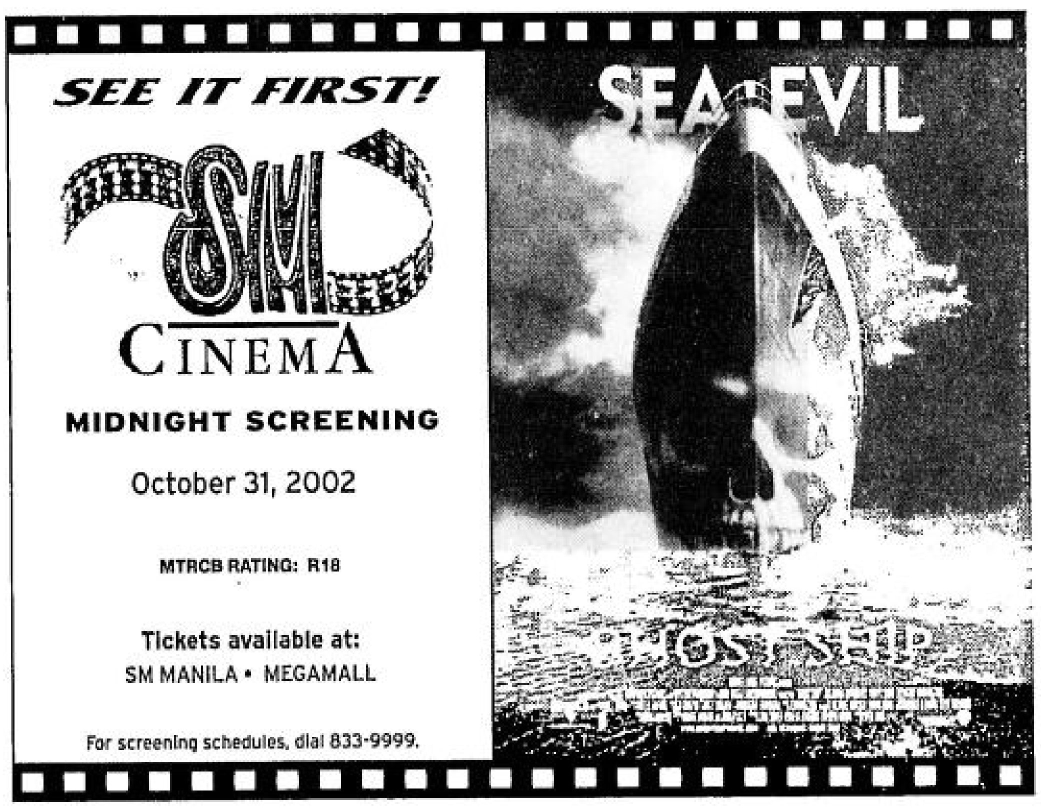

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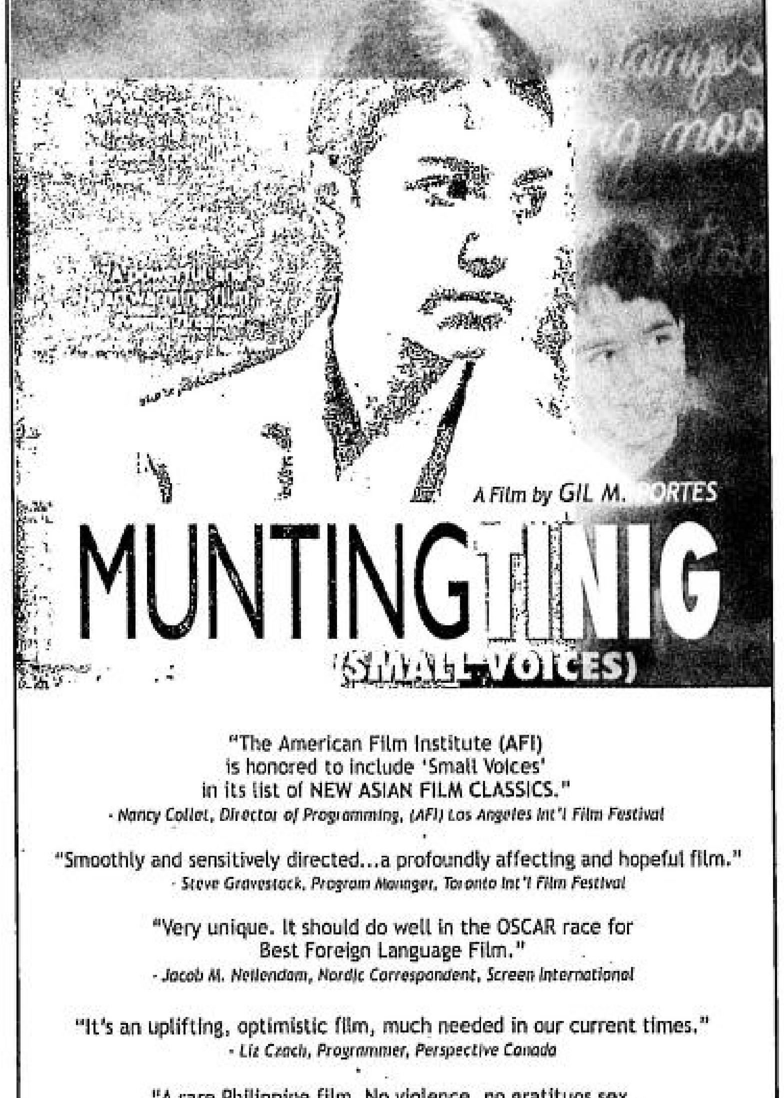

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More action and adventure in Harry Potter sequel

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOW different will "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" be from the first Harry Potter movie? **Chris Columbus**, who directed both films, give this insider's view:

"The first movie was about discovery and introduced the main characters to the audience. This second film has a lot more story, it's much more of an adventure. It also has much more action.

"It's a little darker in tone, but in some sequences, it's also got more humor.

"Also, the young leads have become better actors, so we make them do more difficult scenes from an acting point of view. Before, I used to do eight takes per shot, but now that they've gotten the hang of filming, this time around I would only do three. So, our work was faster, as a result.

"I'm happy to report, however, that contrary to some people's fears, the first Harry Potter film's enormous success hasn't changed the kids' attitude about the work. In particular, **Daniel Radcliffe**, our phenomenal Harry, is as sweet and hardworking as ever.

"And we really put him to work in this new film! He's in practically all of the movie's scenes, so he shot everyday. And he's become a stronger presence on the screen. He now comes across as much more of a leading man, and an action-adventure hero as well.

"Finally, one thing I really like about Harry Potter books is the fact that each installment introduces new characters who add a lot to the series' interest value. In 'Chamber of Secrets,' they include the characters played by **Kenneth Branagh** and **Jason Isaacs**, and they do really well!"

Boob-tube booboos

HOST: If you meet a very special woman and you want to impress her, what would you do on your first date?

Guest: I would take her to an expensive restaurant for a special dinner under candlelight!

(Watch out, her hair might catch fire!)

***

Host: what would you like to say on this first anniversary of our TV show?

Co-host: We have so many people to thank for our still being here after one year, most especially our two loyal viewers!

(Your show is being watched by only two viewers?!)

***

Host: Whom would you like to thank for the success of your movie?

Guest: Most of all, my manager, because he take cares to me!

(Ah, so..)

***

Host: I hear that your special friend gave you a million-peso ring for your birthday?

Guest: No, it's actually very less much!

(*Ano daw?*)

***

Host: *Ano ang* extent *ng* damage *sa nakaraang bagyo?*

Field reporter: *May mga* government building *na nasalanta, tulad ng mga* waiting shed.

(Wow, major damage!)

***

Host: When our Filipino athletes went to compete, not much was expected from them. But now, they have chalked up some remarkable victories!

Co-host: Yes, congratulations are in order as a group for all our athletes and couches!

(*Ay*, couches!)

***

Host: What's the latest on your court case?

Guest: Oh, I'm happy to report that we talked already with the other party, and we'll just settle it off the court.

(What court, basketball or tennis?)

***

Host: What is your reaction to column items that accuse you of being a bad mother?

Guest: Well, if you cackle and cackle you are a chicken!

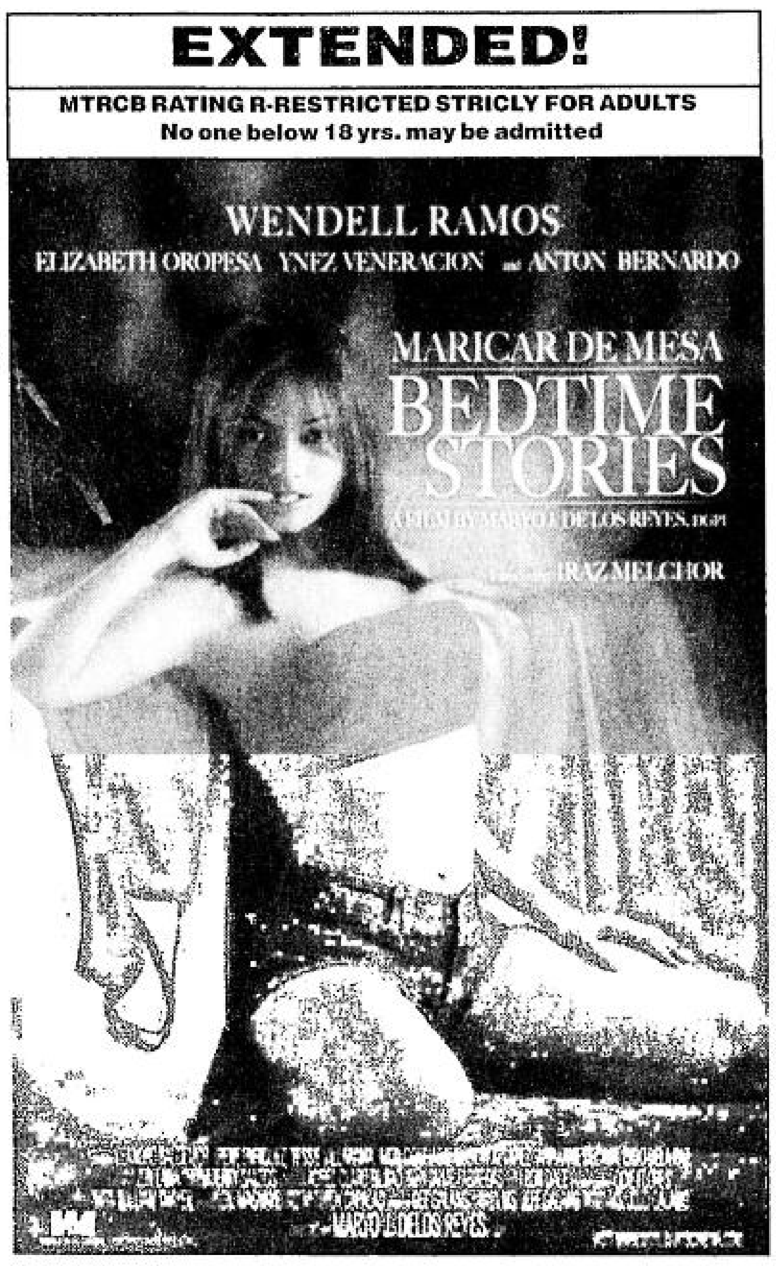
(Does that mean that you're a—mother hen?)

DULCE

Dulce at Calesa Bar

DULCE, the "better for all seasons," is the special featured singer on Nov. 13 at the Hyatt Regency Manila's famous Calesa Bar and Lounge. The show is part of the continuing "Calesa Divas" concert series presented as a tribute to the hotel's entertainment director and resident pianist, **Rudy Francisco** who is celebrating his 35th anniversary with the hotel in March 2003.

Dulce did a special show at Calesa Bar in the '90s and is delighted to be part of the ongoing tribute to Rudy, which has already featured **Malu Barry**, **Verni Varga**, **Anna Fegi** and **Janet Basco**.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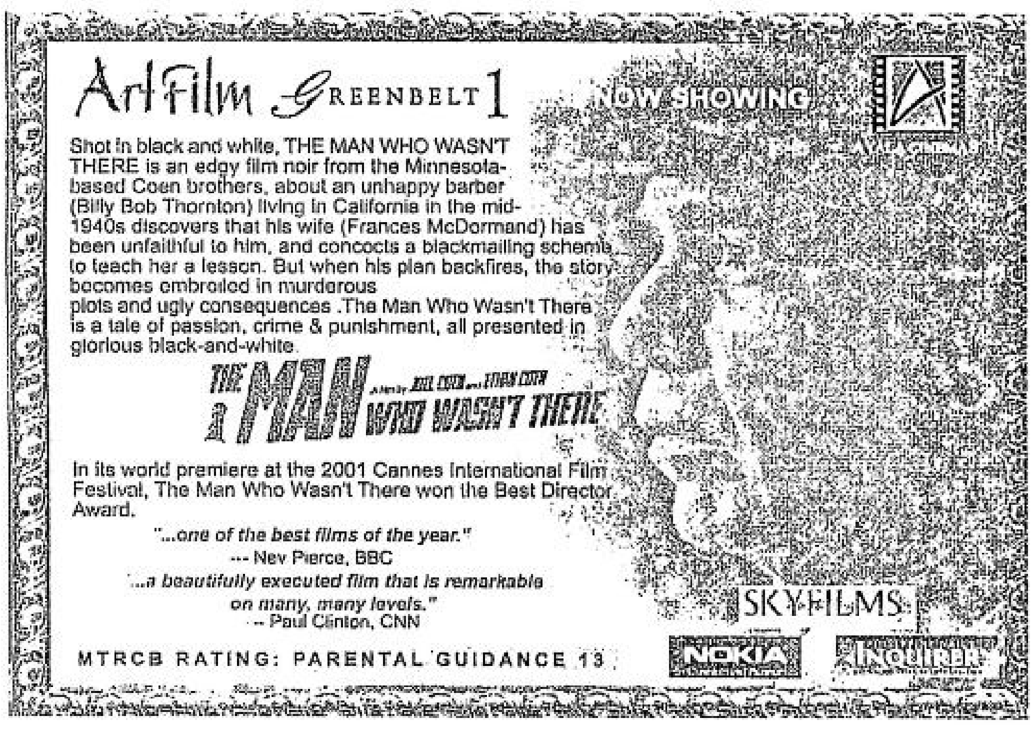
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Shot in black and white, THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE is an edgy film noir from the Minnesota-based Coen brothers, about an unhappy barber (Billy Bob Thornton) living in California in the mid-1940s discovers that his wife (Frances McDormand) has been unfaithful to him, and concocts a blackmailing scheme to teach her a lesson. But when his plan backfires, the story becomes embroiled in murderous plots and ugly consequences .The Man Who Wasn't There is a tale of passion, crime & punishment, all presented in glorious black-and-white.

THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE A film by JOEL COEN and ETHAN COEN

In its world premiere at the 2001 Cannes International Film Festival, The Man Who Wasn't There won the Best Director Award.

"...one of the best films of the year." --- Nev Pierce, BBC

"...a beautifully executed film that is remarkable on many, many levels." -- Paul Clinton, CNN

MTRCB RATING: PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13

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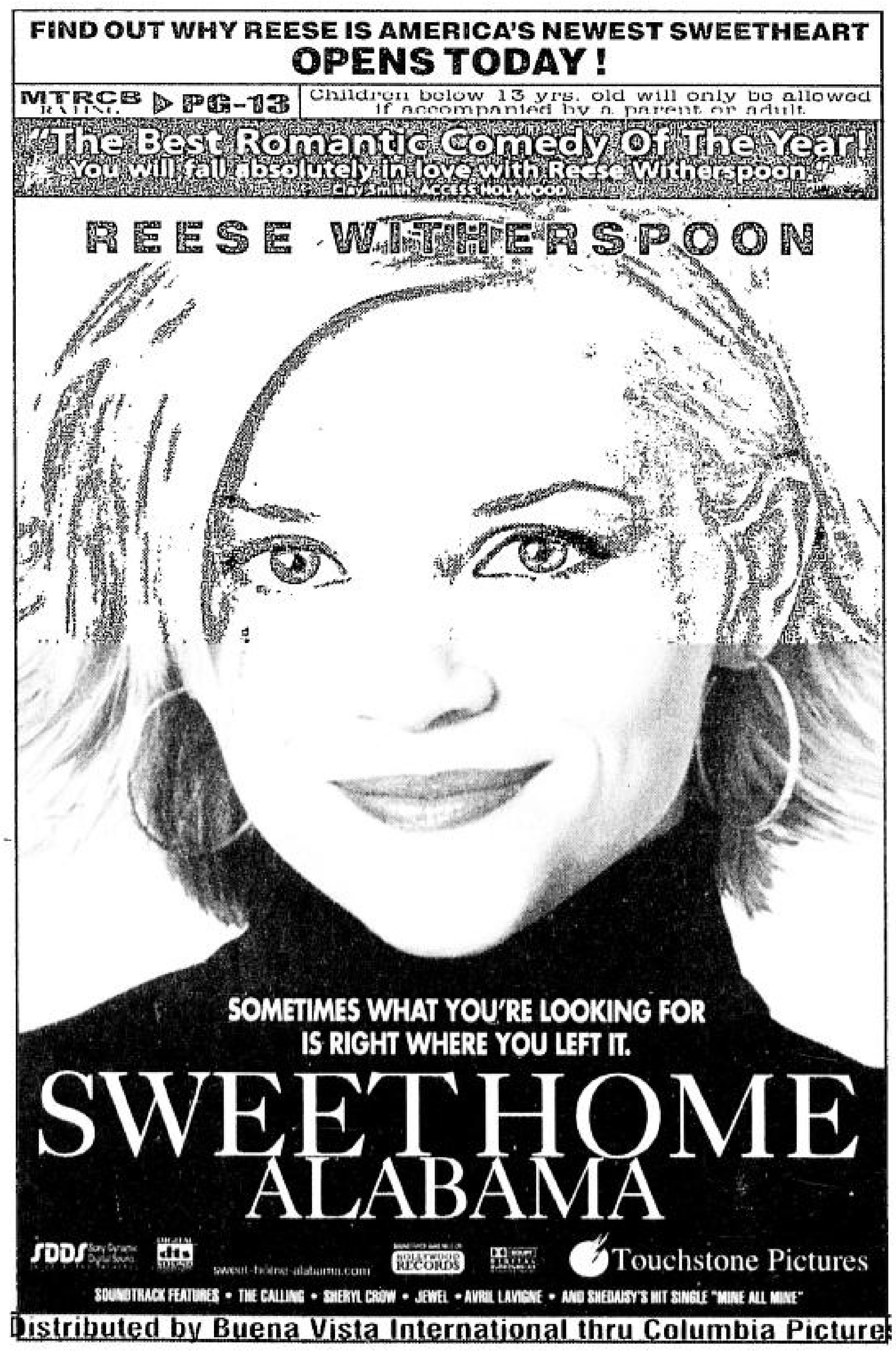
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"The Best Romantic Comedy Of The Year! You will fall absolutely in love with Reese Witherspoon."
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REESE WITHERSPOON
SOMETIMES WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS RIGHT WHERE YOU LEFT IT.
SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Touchstone Pictures
SOUNDTRACK FEATURES • THE CALLING • SHERYL CROW • JEWEL • AVRIL LAVIGNE • AND SHEDAISY'S HIT SINGLE "MINE ALL MINE"
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

AYALA CINEMAS
BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL
OPENS TODAY AT AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
REESE WITHERSPOON
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SWEET HOME ALABAMA
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Vortex
Ray-Ban
COSMOPOLITAN
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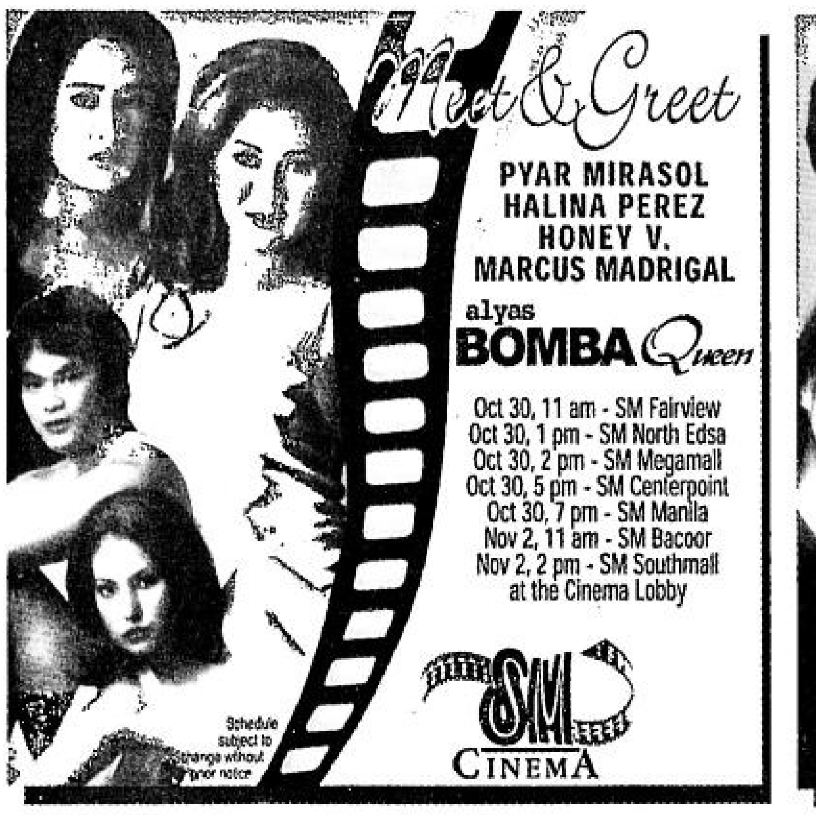

Meet & Greet
PYAR MIRASOL
HALINA PEREZ
HONEY V.
MARCUS MADRIGAL
alyas BOMBA Queen
Oct 30, 11 am - SM Fairview
Oct 30, 1 pm - SM North Edsa
Oct 30, 2 pm - SM Megamall
Oct 30, 5 pm - SM Centerpoint
Oct 30, 7 pm - SM Manila
Nov 2, 11 am - SM Bacoor
Nov 2, 2 pm - SM Southmall
at the Cinema Lobby
Schedule subject to change without prior notice
SM CINEMA

Meet & Greet
AIZA SEGUERRA
MAXENE MAGALONA
RAILEY VALEROSO
SINGSING NI LOLA
Oct 30, 10:30 am - SM Manila
Oct 30, 11:30 am - SM Centerpoint
Nov 2, 11 am - SM Megamall
Nov 3, 11 am - SM North Edsa
at the Cinema Lobby
SM CINEMA
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'It's settled: Assunta will pay me millions to release her'

ASSUNTA de Rossi. "She got what she wanted, I got what I wanted," says. manager Manny Valera. "I just want a happy closure."

By Marinel R. Cruz

"THE CASE has been settled. I will be paid in millions to release Assunta."

Talent manager Manny Valera sent that text message to this writer Monday afternoon.

Valera later said his former talent, Assunta de Rossi, last Saturday agreed to withdraw charges she had filed against him based on the compromise that he would release De Rossi from her management contract.

"I will be releasing Assunta," Valera declared. "She got what she wanted, I also got what I wanted. I just want a happy closure."

He said De Rossi in turn would pay him for the talent-management agreement she had revoked.

The contract between Valera and De Rossi is supposed to be good until March 2007.

Valera said De Rossi has agreed to "pay me millions" but refused to reveal the exact amount. De Rossi was not available for comment.

Last Oct. 1, De Rossi filed for the nullification of her management contract with Valera. She had cited exploitation of a minor and moral damage as grounds for the nullification.

Valera and De Rossi, along with their respective lawyers, met in Quezon City last Saturday to "straighten out whatever disagreements we have," Valera said.

He said he and De Rossi did not talk much to each other during the meeting but both were satisfied with what they had agreed upon.

"Now that we've settled, I don't like to talk about the issue anymore," he said. "I don't want to come across as someone who's sour-graping. I want to move on. I plan to keep on discovering and promoting talents."

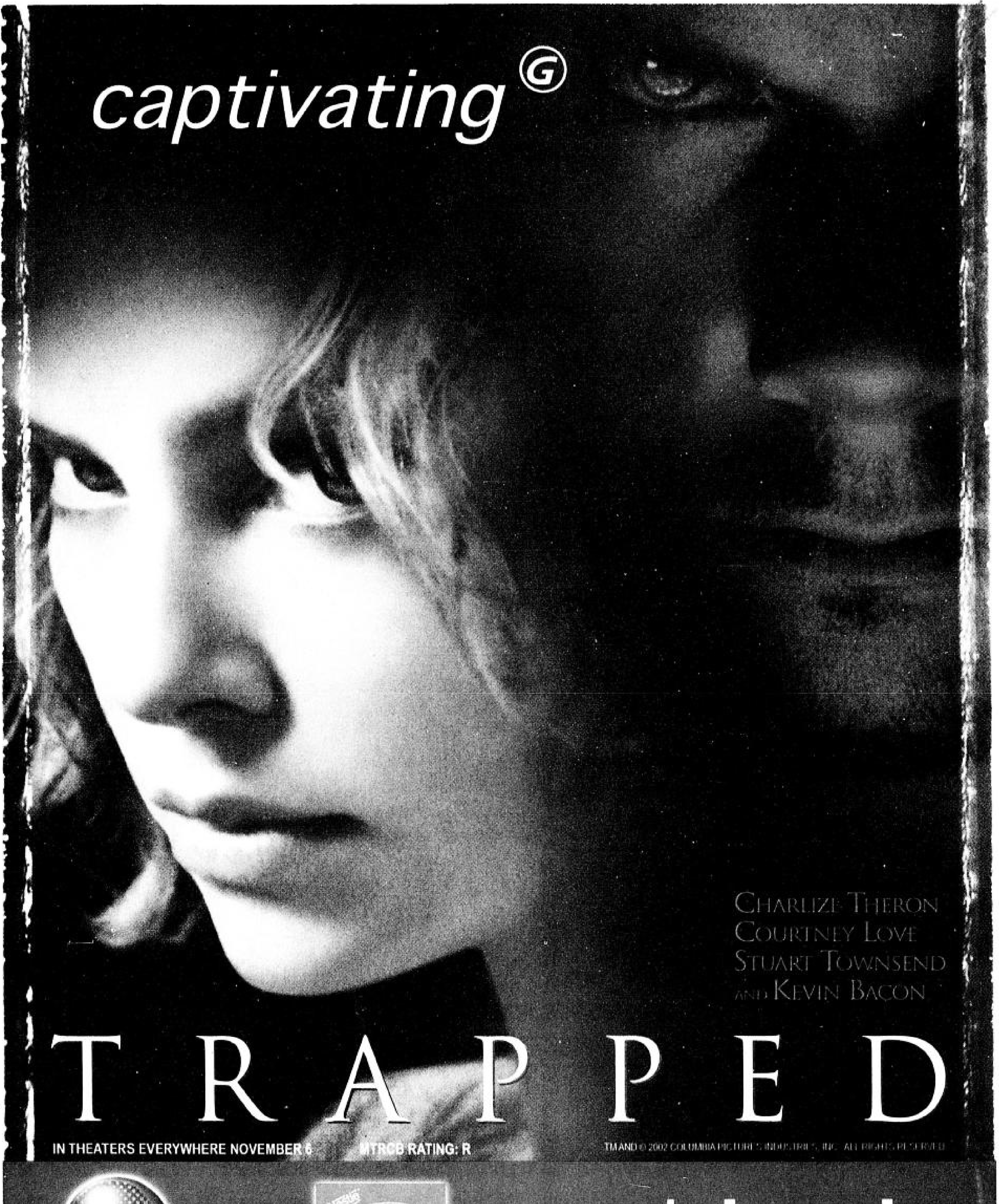
Valera said De Rossi still has two movies to do for Viva Films and has promised to finish them. He said De Rossi, in the affidavit she filed before the Pasig Regional Trial Court, declared that she signed the two-picture contract with Viva "in bad faith" and so she had refused to honor it.

"Maybe she realized that her contract with Viva Films is legal and binding and that's why she agreed to do it," said Valera.

De Rossi will soon be seen in the Joel Lamangan drama "Bahid" for Regal Films, which also stars Eddie Garcia, Dina Bonnevie and Diether Ocampo.

She had said earlier that this would be her last "bold" movie before she marries Negros Occidental Rep. Jules Ledesma.

MANNY Valera


captivating G
CHARLIZE THERON
COURTNEY LOVE
STUART TOWNSEND
AND KEVIN BACON
TRAPPED
IN THEATERS EVERYWHERE NOVEMBER 6
MTRCB RATING: R
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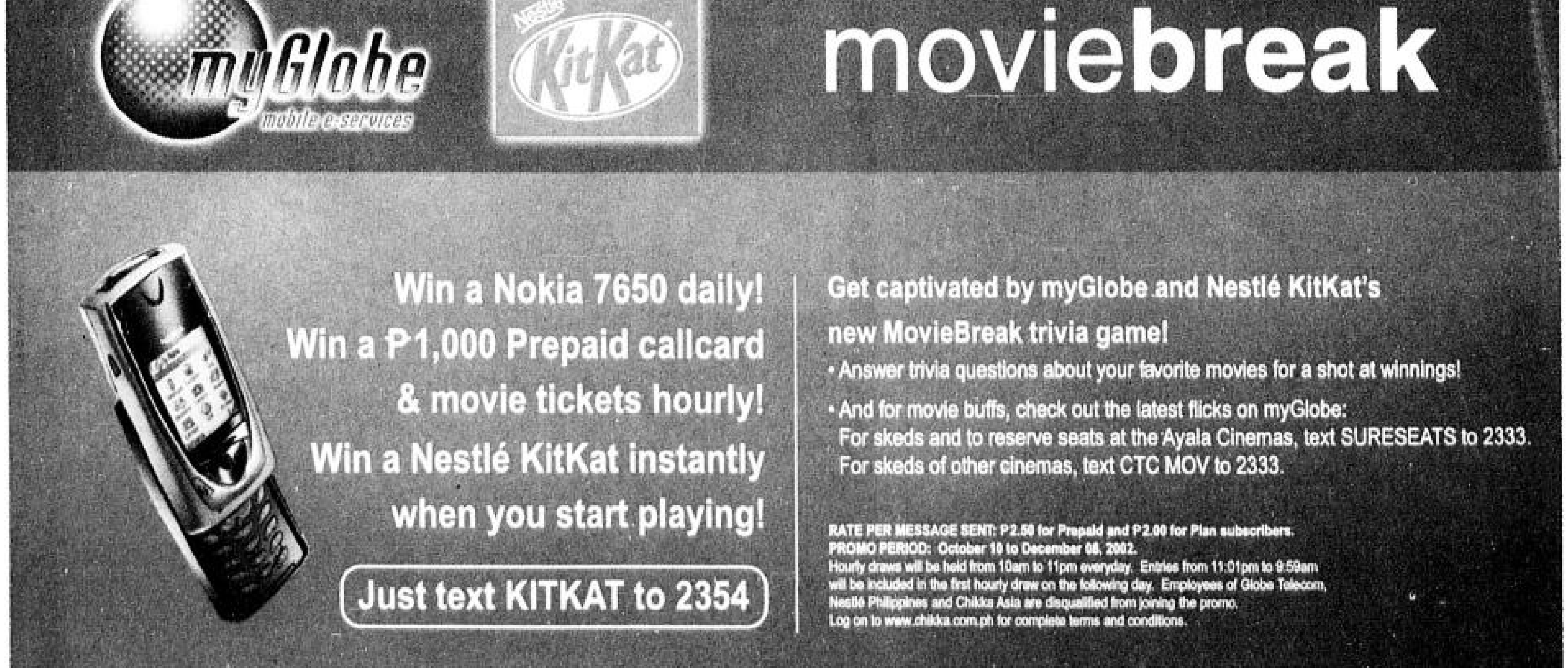
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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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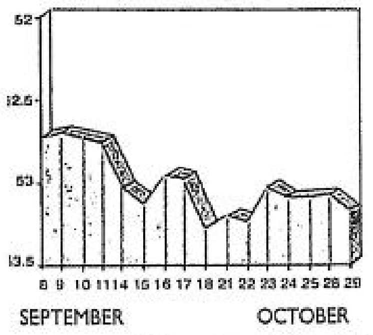
S&P downgrades RP rating to 'negative'

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 53.175= $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 29, 2002

¥ 123.56= $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 29, 2002

GOLD: $315.30-315.80

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 29, 2002

STOCK MARKET

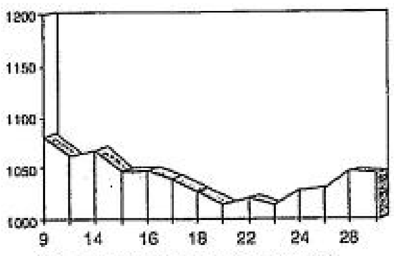
Stocks end lower

STOCKS ended lower yesterday, snapping a three-day winning streak as large cap PLDT gave up ground with investors cashing in some of Monday's gains,.traders said.

Several other key large-caps also came under pressure as players chose to cut holdings

STOCKS/ B2

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

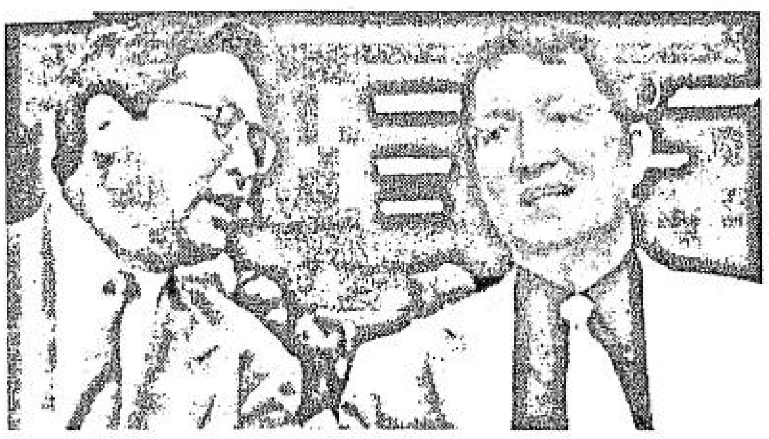
By Clarissa S. Batino

INTERNATIONAL ratings firm Standard & Poor's downgraded its outlook on the Philippines to negative from stable yesterday because of the country's mounting debt burden and poor fiscal administration, specially tax collection.

S&P, however, affirmed its BB-plus rating on the Philippines' long-term sovereign debt and the "B" rating for its short-term foreign currency credit.

But the downgrading of a rating is usually preceded by a shift in the outlook to "negative." S&P underscored growing concern in international markets on the Philippines' budget deficit, which has repeatedly breached targets set by the government.

The government said that S&P had acted hastily in downgrading its ratings outlook.



CAMACHO and Buenaventura

"They are slow in upgrading but quick in downgrading," Finance Secretary Jose Camacho told reporters soon after the S&P move. "They are reacting to a very short-term phenomenon."

"While we recognize the shortfalls during the first half (of the year) we also deserve recognition for improvements in the second half," Camacho said. "Particularly in areas of internal revenue collection and the mangement of expenditures."

"I think they are under-appreciating other gains outside of the deficit," he added. "We continue to have strong GDP growth, a strong external sector, a low interest and a low inflation rate."

Central bank Governor Rafael Buenaventura echoed Camacho's comments.

"Although the budget deficit (now) represents a larger percentage of GDP, nonetheless the economic performance of the country continues to be very positive," he told reporters.

"For example, interest rates are down, GDP continues to be very strong, exports and remittances are up. So the economic prospects continue to look good."

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said yesterday that the move by S&P might also prompt the government to delay foreign borrowings for the rest of this year. "We have to assess the market, how much widening (there will be) on account of the change in outlook. It may be a trigger to prompt us to postpone foreign offerings this year because the market has destabilized," Edeza told reporters.

However, he said the review would not include a $750-million bond float by state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor) scheduled for November.

"There may be a shift from foreign to domestic, maybe we should decrease the amount (of foreign borrowings)," Edeza said.

"One has to assess whether it's cheaper to borrow abroad or locally . . . there's always a possibility of changing it on account of market conditions."

S&P analyst Joydeep Mukherji said the change in outlook "reflects diminishing prospects for the fiscal

S&P/B5

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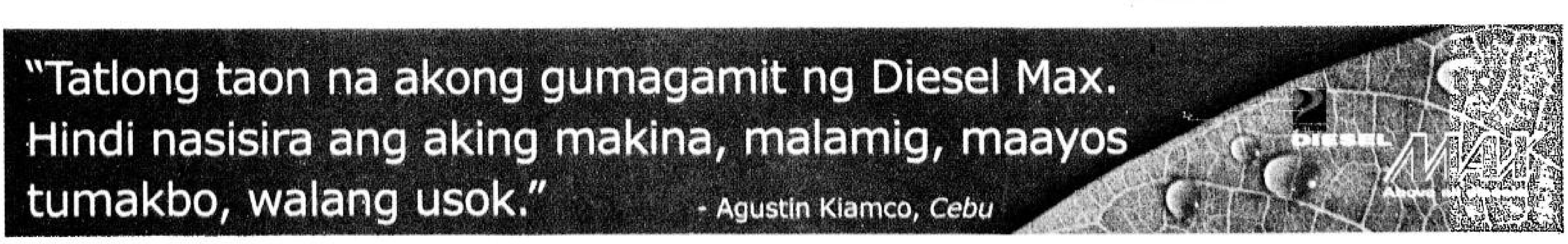

"Tatlong taon na akong gumagamit ng Diesel Max.
Hindi nasisira ang aking makina, malamig, maayos
tumakbo, walang usok."
- Agustin Kiamco, Cebu

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, October 29, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	18.25	17.75	18.25	121,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	42.5	41.5	42	554,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27	27	27	7,700
First E-Bank Corp..	9100	0.91	0.91	0.91	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	30.5	31	92,000
Philippine National Bank	26	26	26	26	500
Security Bank Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	5,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18.25	18	18.25	18,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1185	1185	1185	1185	950
Sun Life Financial Serv.	950	950	950	950	180
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	10,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.45	0.45	0.43	0.44	2,860,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	400	400	397.5	400	44,520
Piltel	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	1,140,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	230	239	229	233	247,750
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	30,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.25	16	16	185,500
Manila Electric Co. B	22.5	22.5	21	21	726,500
Petron Corporation	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	744,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.86	31,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	1.14	1.22	1.14	1.22	414,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.18	2.18	2.16	2.16	1,455,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.2	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.75	438,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc	32	32	32	32	8,300
RFM Corporation	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.75	420,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	57.5	56.5	57.5	432,600
San Miguel Corp. B	61.5	61.5	61	61.5	547,200
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.75	4.75	2,792,000
A. Soriano Corp.	4500	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	400,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	70,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	2,540,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	300,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	85,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	12.75	13.25	12.75	13.25	295,800
Ionics Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	87,000
Macroasia Corp.	5000	0.55	0.5	0.55	120,000
Megaworld Corp.	6000	0.64	0.6	0.64	1,890,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
Uniwide Holdings, Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRA	DING				
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.75	5	3.75	5	21,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.54	164,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.56	136,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.52	180,000
Pryce Corporation	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.9	10	9.9	10	25,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	3300	0.35	0.33	0.33	960,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	17	17	17	17	330,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5	6,575,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	16,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	2,240,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.92	0.92	2,910,000
Highlands Prime, Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.94	1.94	200,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.03	0.032	0.03	0.03	1,200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	60,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	1,000,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	1,793,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	100,000
OIL					
Sinophil Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	800,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	813,830	30,276,875.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	52,252,670	192,347,975.00
PRO	16,294,000	46,523,300.00
Mining	100,000	160,000.00
OIL	800,000	20,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	70,260,500	269,328,950.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	410.19	DOWN 1.03
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,446.96	DOWN 1.16
PRO	463.26	UP 0.05
Mining	1,119.20	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.34	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	627.33	DOWN 0.52
Composite	1,045.70	DOWN 1.35

DISCLOSURES

BENGUET Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 18, 3 p.m. at the 5/F Equitable-PCI Bank Tower I, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 7 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. During its board meeting, the directors appointed Daniel Andrew Romualdez as director representing convertible preferred class A and common class A stock. Also, Ferdinand Martin Romualdez replaced Benjamin Philip Romualdez as chair of the board.

* * *

FIRST Metro Investment Corp. announced the resignation of Edgardo Marquez as director and Peter Julian Clemente as vice president of the company. Nimfa Balmes-Pastrana was appointed compliance officer.

* * *

THE BOARD of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. approved the 5-percent equity investment to be made by the bank in any life and non-life insurance company.

* * *

ZEUS Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 12 with record date on Nov. 13.

* * *

PRIME Orion Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 12 with record date on Nov. 13.

* * *

PRIME Gaming Philippines Inc. shall reduce the number of its directors from 11 to nine. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Oct. 29, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.015538	1	53.065
Japan	Yen	0.008217	0.008091	0.4293
United Kingdom	Pound	1.584645	1.5604	82.8026
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130218	0.128226	6.8043
Switzerland	Franc	0.682439	0.671998	35.6596
Canada	Dollar	0.651988	0.642013	34.0684
Singapore	Dollar	0.572457	0.563698	29.9126
Australia	Dollar	0.566864	0.558191	29.6204
Bahrain	Dinar	2.693948	2.652731	140.7672
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.27081	0.266667	14.1507
Brunei	Dollar	0.570688	0.561956	29.8202
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00011	0.000108	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.023389	0.023031	1.2221
UAE	Dirham	0.276494	0.272264	14.4477
Korea	Won	0.00083	0.000817	0.0434
Euro	Euro	1	0.9847	52.2531
Argentina	Real	0.28288	0.278552	14.7814
Brazil	Real	0.270738	0.266596	14.1469
Denmark	Kroner	0.134544	0.132485	7.0303
India	Rupee	0.021004	0.020683	1.0975
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267282	0.263193	13.9663
Mexico	New Peso	0.100908	0.099364	5.2728
New Zealand	Dollar	0.496086	0.488496	25.922
Norway	Kroner	0.135333	0.133262	7.0715
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017285	0.017021	0.9032
South Africa	Rand	0.101034	0.099488	5.2793
Sweden	Kroner	0.109934	0.108242	5.7439
Syria	Pound	0.022976	0.022624	1.2005
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029191	0.028744	1.5253
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.00073	0.000719	0.0382

Web-based broker eyes stock listing

By Doris C. Dumlao

WEB-BASED private placement broker Cashrounds.com, a unit of Amalgamated Investment Bancorporation (AIB), has filed an application to list on the small and medium enterprise board of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In a press briefing, PSE listing head Ma. Isabel Garcia said Cashrounds.com was planning to sell 28 percent of its outstanding and issued shares through an initial public offering.

If approved, Cashrounds.com will be the third company to list on the PSE's SME board after Makati Finance Corp. (MFC), which is likewise owned by AIB, and software service firm SQL Wizard Inc.

If the listing is approved and implemented this year, Cashrounds.com will be the seventh to go public through the PSE after Citystate Savings Bank, Salcon Power Corp., Highlands Prime Inc., Banco de Oro Universal Bank and Jolliville Holdings Corp. The listing application of MFC is still being processed by the PSE.

"Cashrounds.com is an online facility where users of private equity as well as providers of private equity can meet," Garcia said.

In its website, Cashrounds.com describes itself as a "matchmaker" and private placement platform pairing up investors with investees with good growth prospects.

The company operates as an online agent for companies scouting for equity financing outside the stock market. After gathering and screening the company's investment proposals, it refers the requirements to fund providers such as venture capital funds, investment houses and high net worth individuals.

It earns fees only in case the transaction of a private placement has been completed and the equity infusion executed.

Cashrounds.com complements the operations of parent firm AIB, an investment house owned by Singaporean and Filipino investors that specializes in money market operations, trading, debt and equity underwriting and mergers and acquisitions.

AIB is affiliated with the Lorenzo family, which owns Pancake House Inc., Del Monte Philippines Inc., as well as the Lapanday and Macondray groups.

The underwriter tapped by Cashrounds.com for its planned IPO is Keppel IVI Investments Inc.

The SME board was inaugurated by the PSE last year.

Stocks end lower

From page B1

ahead of the All Saints holiday weekend.

The main index ended down 1.35 points, or 0.13 percent, at 1,045.70 points.

Turnover slid to P269.44 million from P728.1 million on Monday.

"It looks like the speculative buying has fizzled out and some people have decided to cash out," Eagle Equities president Joey Roxas said of PLDT, adding however that the stock appeared to have found a support base at around P230.

On Monday, PLDT surged over 8 percent on a newspaper report that the firm was negotiating to sell a 15 percent stake to US-based Newbridge Capital via an issue of new shares.

The company, one of the largest by market capitalization on the exchange, has firmly rejected the report, taking the steam out of the speculative buying frenzy.

Meralco also came under selling pressure after posting a 37-percent year-on-year decline in third quarter net income and warning of a difficult operating environment next year unless it was able to get a long-sought rate hike.

With many investors exiting the market ahead of the holidays, analysts expect listless, flat activity today, the last trading day of the week. *Reuters*

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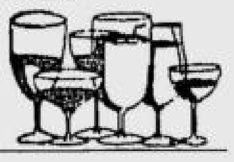
Extra-judicial terrorism

COCKTALES

Victor S. Agustin



COCKTALES was detained for more than three hours at the Manila City Hall police detachment Monday on the strength of a stale warrant of arrest issued by a "hoodlum" Baguio judge.

Yours truly was collared after a libel hearing right inside the courtroom of Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Tita Bughao Alisuag.

Ironically, Judge Alisuag had refused to cave in to the pleadings of lawyer Lorna Kapunan, the partner of Sen. Raul Roco, who wanted Cocktales' bail rescinded for non-appearance the previous hearing.

Kapunan was representing Sylvia Ilusorio-Yap, a daughter-in-law of Manila Bulletin owner Emilio Yap, in a libel case she filed against Cocktales.

And in a novel twist to forum shopping, the Baguio case, also claiming libel, stemmed from a new complaint filed by the same Sylvia Ilusorio-Yap.

The warrant of arrest was issued in July by a Baguio RTC judge, one of the four "hoodlums in robes" denounced by fellow Baguio Judge Ruben Ayson earlier this year.

We came to know of the new libel complaint in Baguio only when a Makati police team came to the INQUIRER office sometime in August to serve the arrest order.

The Baguio Prosecutors Office, in a remarkable display of efficiency, had filed two libel charges on behalf of Yap and another complainant without giving Cocktales the benefit of a preliminary investigation. Hence, the warrant for our arrest.

In so doing, the Baguio fiscal expanded the scope of libel theory by ruling that the second complainant, who was never even named or even adverted to in the alleged offending columns, had a prima facie case against Cocktales.

At the City Hall detachment, the policemen were baffled why Cocktales was unwilling to post the P10,000 bail and was even asking them to form a team to accompany Cocktales to Baguio, transport and board courtesy of yours truly.

That was when the whole scheme began to unravel.

The chief of the City Hall detachment, a Supt. Ibay, was puzzled why a warrant of arrest from Baguio, a duplicate copy at that, landed on their lap.

One of the arresting policemen sheepishly admitted that the copy had come from "the lawyer of the complainant."

Still, Supt. Ibay insisted, Cocktales should be turned over to the Western Police District Warrant Section for proper processing and that the Warrant Section, not the City Hall detachment, should bring the detainee to the Baguio police.

But after a phone call, the WPD Warrant Section refused to touch the case, leaving Supt. Ibay no choice but to consider sending his own men. He had wanted to spare only one policeman but the officer-on-case countered that four, including a lieutenant, had gallantly volunteered to escort Cocktales to the City of Pines.

The whole charade abruptly ended when a young INQUIRER lawyer, Ato Pagdanganan, popped in and produced a sheaf of documents to show that Cocktales had already posted the necessary bail way back in August.

That promptly ended Cocktales' jail wish.

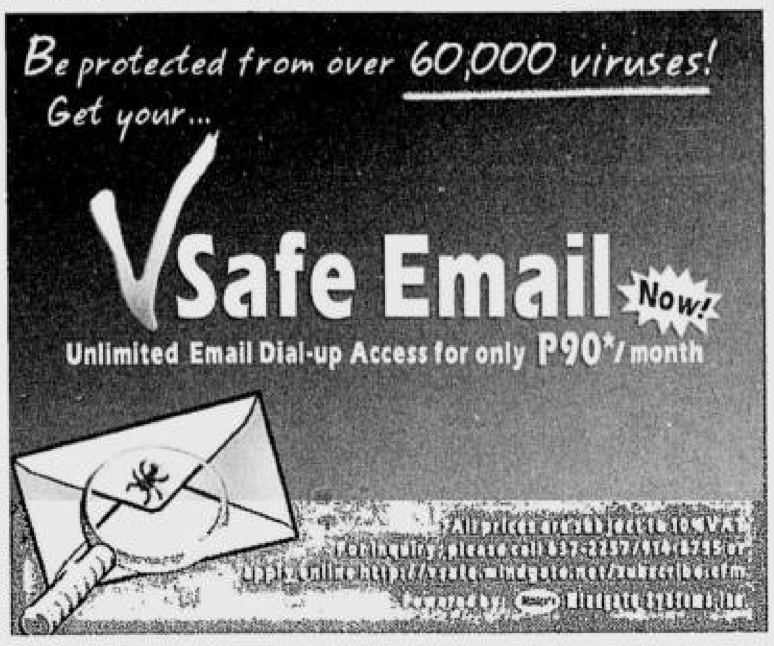
But then again, you never know. The City Hall detachment had only one arrest order covering one case.

Another warrant of arrest, covering the second of the twin Baguio charges, is floating around, ready to be served, perhaps at the airport, next time?

Azcuna's poor constituents

NEWLY minted Supreme Court Justice Adolf Azcuna, who vowed to bring the highest court of the land "closer to the poor," wel-

COCKTALES/B4



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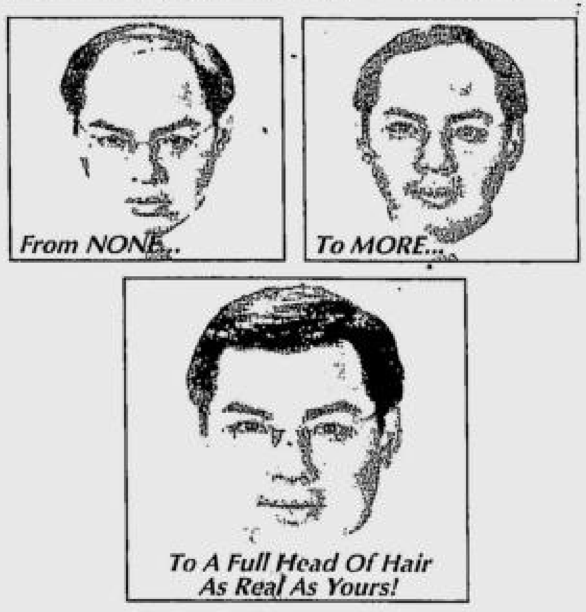

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T-bill rates rise; BSP sees 91-day yield inching up to 7%

By Clarissa S. Batino

NATIONAL Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday said the fixed-income market practically shrugged off the decision of Standard & Poor's to downgrade the country's sovereign rating as treasury bill yields rose modestly.

But a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas official warned that the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate could go up to 7 percent in the first quarter of 2003.

He said the worst-case scenario on interest rates, if the markets would react adversely to the S&P decision, was that the 91-day rate used by banks in pricing their loans could match the BSP's overnight borrowing rate of 7 percent.

Yesterday, the benchmark 91-day treasury bill yield went up by 8.6 basis points to 5.374 percent, the 182-day by 26.3 points to 6.629 percent, and the 364-day by 17.2 points to 7.232 percent.

The government accepted P8.87 billion of the P9 billion in total tenders.

During the same auction, the government raised P1 billion each from the issuance of two- and five-year bonds at an average rate of 8.694 percent and 10.793 percent, respectively.

Edeza said the auction committee decided to reject small yet unreasonable bids to send the signal that the government was not desperately in need of cash.

For instance, a bid for P25 million worth of 91-day treasury bills would have raised the high-end of the tenor to 5.5 percent.

"Some of the bids were just off and had we accepted them, they would just drive up the rates in the next auction," Edeza explained.

Edeza said the S&P decision would prompt the government to be more aggressive in putting in place revenue reforms to reverse the growing fiscal slippage.

He acknowledged that the decision of the rating firm was a wake-up call as it could mean a downgrade of the BB+ rating itself.

"It is a warning sign that they are looking at the measures to address the concern or they could do something with the ratings itself," the treasurer said.

The huge budget deficit as of September, Edeza suspected, was the main trigger of the S&P decision. During the nine-month period, the budget gap swelled to P166.4 billion.

The private sector is expecting the full-year budget gap to be anywhere between P190 billion and P200 billion.

MRT contractor gets Nov. 14 deadline on extension project

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications has given Edsa Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT-3) contractor Metro Rail Transit Corp. (MRTC) up to Nov. 14 to submit its response regarding certain conditions for the approval of its proposal for the MRT-3 extension project.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in an interview that MRTC has not yet submitted its response to issues that the National Economic and Development Authority raised prior to the awarding of the project to MRTC.

"Commercial issues, the Neda requirements, have to be settled first. MRTC was given until Nov. 14 to settle these conditions," he said.

Among these conditions were the lowering of the return-on-equity to 11 percent from the originally proposed 15 percent and the slashing of the cost by almost $25 million to $189.29 million.

In an earlier interview, Presidential Adviser on Strategic Projects Gloria Tan-Climaco told the INQUIRER that MRTC's proposal for the railway extension project would still be going through a legal review before final awarding.

"But it's not going to take very long. It won't take that long a time to review the proposal," she said.

Climaco was tasked to review the MRT-3 extension contract only in August, following her review of the controversial Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) contract for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project.

After being given this task, talks started circulating that Mendoza and Climaco had a bit of a tussle over which one of them would really be overseeing the MRT project.

Mendoza belied this and said they were not engaged in any power struggle and that the DOTC was still the project's implementing agency.

"The DOTC is still pursuing the project. Climaco is there only to review the contract, but we are still the implementing agency," he said.

Mendoza added that MRTC was expected to give its response before the Nov. 14 deadline as both the consortium and the government wanted to push through with the project as soon as possible.

La Tondeña posts 41% rise in net profit

By Doris C. Dumlao

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc., the hard liquor unit of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., reported a 41-percent growth in net profits to P1.16 billion in the first nine months of the year from a year ago due to improved volumes in Mindanao and cost-containment measures.

For the third quarter alone, LTDI's net profits grew by 27 percent to P347 million from a year ago despite cost pressures arising from the tight supply of molasses during the period, a company statement said yesterday.

"Gross margins are expected to recover slightly in the fourth quarter as the start of the sugar milling season eases up molasses supply. As such, we remain confident that we will meet our full-year targets," LTDI chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. said.

During its board meeting yesterday, LTDI also declared a P37.5-centavo cash dividend for both common and preferred shareholders, payable on Dec. 6 to stockholders as of Nov. 15.

Explaining the nine-month results, the LTDI statement further said: "Strong volumes in southern Philippines contributed to the company's favorable performance. Ginebra San Miguel Blue and Vino Kulafu, the company's leading liquor products in Visayas and Mindanao, boosted sales by 50 percent. This offset the slowdown in the sales in northern Philippines brought about by the lingering effects of a deliberate reduction in dealer inventory."

The statement also said LTDI's initiative to improve selling and distribution costs, in line with a sustained drive to reduce fixed costs throughout the region. These measures allowed a reduction in selling and distribution expenses by more than half while total fixed costs went down by 8 percent.

Working capital improved to P2.8 billion as of end-September, up from P6.2 billion a year ago as the company focused on keeping inventory and accounts receivable at optimal levels. Accounts receivables days level declined from 79 days in September 2001 to 31 days.

With cash generated from improvements in working capital, LTDI said interest expenses were pared down by as much as 76 percent as of September, contributing P582 million to net profit.

Cocktales

From page B3

comed his ascension to the tribunal with a cocktails-dinner at the exclusive Wack Wack Golf and Country Club Monday.

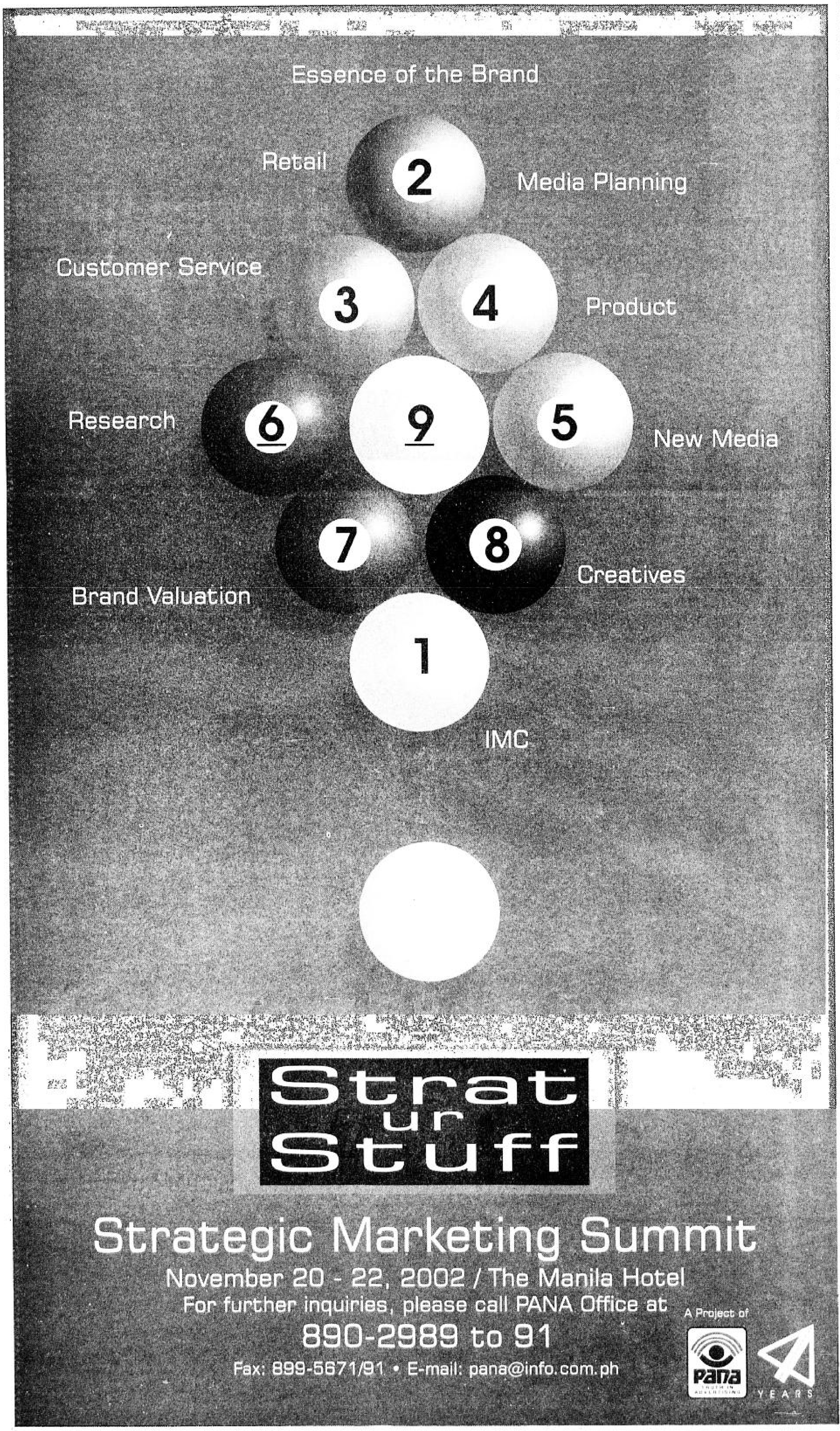
Among the guests were prominent members of the civil/evil society with a sprinkling of Chinoy businessmen clients of the Fortun Narvasa law firm.

Heard through the grapevine

THE ACCOUNTING firm Punongbayan and Araullo, who lost Ernst and Young to SGV, will have Grant and Thornton as its new foreign partner.

With Grant and Thornton getting to bed with P&A, what happens now to Grant and Thornton (ex) correspondent, RA Bernaldo?

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)



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Gov't to review 2003 borrowing program

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday said it might review its borrowing program for next year to make adjustments in its debt mix with a view of cutting down foreign borrowings, programmed at $2.3 billion.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday said the government would have to go back to the drawing boards to map out a new borrowing strategy for 2003, one that would be less reliant on foreign funds which were expected to become more expensive following the downgrade of S &P's ratings outlook for the Philippines.

He added that any plan of the government to tap the foreign markets ahead of its $2.3-billion requirement for 2003 might have to be postponed until the markets stabilized.

- The government earlier said it could raise $300 million from the long-term Japanese bond market, $1 billion from the 10-year global bond market and $200 million from the five-year euro bond market in the remaining months of the year to ease the burden in 2003.

"There may be a shift from foreign to domestic borrowings. Maybe we can reduce the programmed foreign borrowings if we'll find the spreads too much," said Edeza.

The impact of the Standard & Poor's decision was felt readily as spreads on Philippine bonds maturing in 2009 rose by 30 basis points.

A downgrade in its outlook warns of a possible downgrade in the country's credit rating, which will make Philippine borrowings more costly.

Out of the P136.6 billion in programmed net borrowings in 2003, the government said it would borrow P96.1 billion from foreign sources and P40.5 billion from the domestic market.

This borrowing mix, according to Edeza, is equivalent to a ratio of 56-44 in favor of external fund-raising.

This year, the government's net borrowing program was placed at P190.4 billion. Of this, P127.7 billion was to be raised from the local market and P62.7 billion from offshore sources.

Renegotiation of CBK contract sought

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SEN. Sergio Osmeña III yesterday called for the renegotiation of National Power Corp.'s contract for the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan hydropower project which was allegedly P8 billion overpriced.

The build-rehabilitate-operate-transfer contract for the $486-million project, which took effect last year, is good for 25 years or until 2026.

The project is being operated by CBK Power, a 50-50 joint venture between Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona Sociedad Anonyma (Impsa) of Argentina and Edison Mission Energy of the United States.

Osmeña said in a statement that due to the CBK's overpricing, Napocor stood to incur a P19-billion deficit during the year.

He noted that the capital recovery fee for the project, amounting to $2 million a month or $24 million a year, was paid up front to CBK Power.

The senator also cited a report from New Zealand-based Meritec Ltd., a consulting firm that audited the CBK project, saying that the payments might not be appropriate compared with the proponents' capital expenses.

In August, Meritec reported that CBK Power was expected to collect $50 million in June 2003 when it spent only $8 million in refurbishing Kalayaan Unit 2.

Meritec added that the independent power producer was expected to collect $30 million while it invested only $1 million in Kalayaan Unit 1.

Osmeña blamed top Napocor officials for the over-recoveries and other price-padding rackets.

He also accused the officials of entering into questionable agreements, faking project completion documents and agreeing to exorbitant fees.

"You have to renegotiate the contract," he said. "The Filipino people is financing a multinational firm."

Osmeña's statements came after the Department of Energy announced that it had entered a deal with Mirant Philippines on certain revisions in the latter's contracts.

The DOE said the government expected to save between $277 million and $387 million from the agreement.

Late in June, a Malacañang-appointed inter-agency committee reported that the CBK contract—like the MIrant contract—had certain issues that needed further study for possible renegotiation.

Meanwhile, Napocor acting president Roland Quilala said in a statement the power firm was willing to cooperate in the investigation of the CBK project.

"We welcome the probe that the good senator has again proposed," Quilala said. "But we are curious why this issue was resurrected at this time."

DTI caps coverage of auto import ban

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is adamant on its decision to allow the importation of used light trucks and buses that weigh at least 4.5 tons to serve the needs of small and medium enterprises and local government units (LGU) for cheap transportation.

The DTI's dogged move to allow the continued importation of used light trucks is expected to affect sales not only of Mitsubishi, Kia and Isuzu, which assemble light trucks in the country, but also Ford Motor Philippines, maker of Ford Expedition which falls under the 4.5-ton gross vehicle weight class.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said the DTI has decided to limit the ban on used vehicles importation only on passenger cars, vans, sport and Asian utility vehicles, pickup trucks and passenger vans in order to "balance the interest and concern of other sectors such as SMEs and LGUs."

Cristobal considered light truck assembly too insignificant to be protected by the government. "The importation of light trucks serves a purpose—to give SMEs and LGUs with cheaper vehicles," Cristobal said.

But Truck Manufacturers Association Inc. chair Frank Nacua has appealed the DTI's decision by negotiating to increase the import limit to 6-tons trucks and 12-ton buses.

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John Hay, Poro Point zones seek BOT partners

JOHN Hay Poro Point Development Corp. (JPDC), estate manager and implementing arm of Bases Conversion Development Authority's (BCDA) John Hay and Poro Point Economic Zones, is planning to solicit private sector participation in its infrastructure and development programs.

Through the various contractual arrangements provided under Republic Act No. 7718, or the amended Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law, JPDC expects the private sector to finance, develop, manage, operate, and maintain its infrastructure facilities and services. To date, major investors have expressed interest in JPDC's properties such as the San Fernando Airport. Following the government's cornerstone policy of extensively mobilizing private sector participation in infrastructure development, JPDC looks forward to developing these facilities and improving services by capitalizing on private sector resources and expertise.

To help them structure this vision into concrete BOT partnerships with the private sector, Gen. Fortunato U. Abat, president and CEO of JPDC sought technical assistance from the Coordinating Council Private Sector Participation-BOT Center (CCPSP-BOT Center). As the agency mandated to coordinate and monitor the country's BOT program, the CCPSP-BOT Center took JPDC's challenge in providing them the critical technical, financial, legal and contractual solutions that will make their PSP/BOT projects work.

Fedex unit reports 50% jump in cargo volume

AIRFREIGHT 2100 Inc., the Philippine licensee of Federal Express Corp., got a windfall from the port lockout in the US West Coast as Philippine exporters turned to air delivery providers to ship their goods to American buyers.

Airfreight vice president Reuben Pangan said Fedex volumes surged by 50 percent from the normal volume from late September to early October this year when a labor dispute paralyzed the main gateway of Asian exports to the United States. Fedex has an average volume of 1.5 metric tons a month.

Pangan said exporters of electronics, garments and furniture burned the Fedex lines to book flights to the US just to meet their delivery schedule and avoid penalties and losses. One Cebu-based exporter chartered a 747 plane of Fedex to bring out 105 tons of merchandise.

"We are seeing volumes we have not seen before," Pangan said. "But we know this is only temporary and it might last only up the first quarter next year." The US government intervened in the port lockout to reopen the 29 West Coast ports and avoid further losses to the US economy which analysts estimated at several billions of dollars.

Aside from the international business, Pangan said Airfreight was likewise keen on beefing up its local presence with the introduction of Air 21 early next year. "We hope to provide a one-stop shop for all the logistics and delivery needs of local manufacturers," Pangan said. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

S&P downgrades . . .

From page B1

consolidation that is necessary to stabilize and reduce the government's high debt burden and sustain investor confidence."

"Total government debt, including the central bank, is around 80 percent of GDP, already exceeding the level in most similarly rated sovereigns. Interim results during the current fiscal year indicate poor revenue collection, especially from the Bureau of Internal Revenue," he added.

Bond investors responded to the S&P move by demanding higher returns on Manila's dollar-denominated bonds relative to US treasuries. The spread between the two generally widened by 0.10 percentage point, with Philippine benchmark bonds due in 2010 quoted at about 4.19 points over US treasuries.

Last week, the government said the deficit in the first nine months of the year reached P166.47 billion, already more than the full-year target of at most 4 percent of GDP or around P155 billion.

It said total outstanding government debt had been $50.85 billion at the end of August, not counting some $10 billion in contingent debt.
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P2B in PLDT debt papers get 'best grade' rating

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE Rating Services Corp. has given P2 billion worth of debt papers that Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is set to issue a "PRS1" or "best grade" rating, citing the telecom giant's strong cash flow and successful liability management program.

PhilRatings defines its PRS1 rating as having the "strongest capability for timely payment of debt instrument issue on both principal and interest."

This is the highest rating on the rating agency's scale.

"In assigning the rating, PhilRatings focused on the expected improvement in cash flow generation that will result from sustained earnings growth and a reduction in planned capital spending going forward as the bulk of needed infrastructure has already been put in place," PhilRatings said in a statement it issued yesterday.

It added that despite the liberalized and highly competitive telecommunications environment, PLDT continued to show its leadership by maintaining a strong position in both the fixed line and wireless communication markets.

The country's No. 1 telecom firm currently has a 63-percent share in the fixed line market while its wholly owned subsidiary, Smart Communications Inc., controls 57 percent of the mobile telecom market.

PhilRatings also took note of the 208-percent jump in PLDT's earnings last year to P3.4 billion and Smart's continuous generation of significant cash flows.

PLDT has put in place some successful liability management initiatives to address its more than $1.3 billion worth of debts falling due this year up to 2004.

These initiatives include a $149-million term loan refinancing facility from German development bank Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau in January; a $350-million bond float in May, along with the tender offer for two outstanding bond issues due 2003 and 2004; and a $145-million multi-currency loan agreement with 10 lenders.

Sweeping reforms still needed to spur infrastructure growth

By Doris C. Dumlao

(Conclusion)

DESPITE their diverse, and sometimes conflicting, interests, the government, lenders and private groups agree that sweeping reforms are needed to draw investments to infrastructure development.

Contrary to perceptions that the sources of funds may have dried up amid a difficult economic environment, private investments can still be mobilized to boost key infrastructure requirements.

The Development Bank of the Philippines is among the institutions trying to live up to its mission of providing the private sector and local government units with money for their infrastructure requirements.

The bank is currently developing a "sustainable logistics development program" to address needs to distribute goods and services all within the context of the country's goal to be globally competitive.

"Transport is pivotal to economic development. On the one hand, the achievement of economic growth and poverty reduction requires good physical access to resources and markets, while on the other, quality of life is generally dependent on the quality of physical access to employment, food sufficiency, health services, homes, education and other amenities," DBP president Simon Paterno said.

Since the 1990s, multilateral lending institutions like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank have been playing key roles in various initiatives to improve Philippine infrastructure.

The ADB was behind the country's efforts to build new power plants through private sector participation and privatize state-owned utilities like the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

It has vowed to pursue an integrated approach to transport development, with a focus on the road sub-sector.

The World Bank, meanwhile, has supported private sector involvement in infrastructure going beyond the build-operate-transfer contracts.

Apart from seeking to strengthen the country's policy framework on infrastructure, the World Bank, in its country assistance strategy for 2003-2005, has vowed to help increase access to capital markets for water, power, road and urban infrastructure by designing and implementing pre-investment funds, establish local infrastructure funds and develop municipal bond markets.

FORMER Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo: Unlike in the past, when the government gave sweeping guarantees, the practice now is the unbundling of risk guarantees so that the burden on the government is mitigated.

In view of the reduced risk tolerance of private infrastructure developers and lower availability of private risk insurance worldwide, the World Bank will also explore the use of guarantee instruments to enhance market access to commercial debts.

The bank's investment arm, the International Finance Corp., has itself been active in infrastructure investments over the past decade.

Financial reforms

The World Bank, in its "Country Framework Report" on private infrastructure, said the government should come up with a new blueprint for implementing infrastructure projects without draining much of its own financial resources.

Among the measures it said the government could consider was privatizing more service-level functions to lessen the need for guarantees on demand risks. It also cited the need to improve the current framework for the issuance of government guarantees "by better defining the basis and rationale for credit enhancements, and, once extended, pricing and managing the attendant risks appropriately."

Ruben Reinoso, assistant director of the National Economic and Development Authority, said government subsidies could not entirely be done away with because of the need to make certain infrastructure projects viable.

"There are certain areas that the government still has to subsidize, but the subsidy must be transparent, strictly planned and still subject to competition," Reinoso stressed.

In mass transportation, for instance, the government may subsidize fixed assets like railways and let the private sector roll out the rest, he said. Otherwise, the project is unlikely to be financially sustainable for a private operator to assume.

"Most public transport systems around the world are still being subsidized," he pointed out.

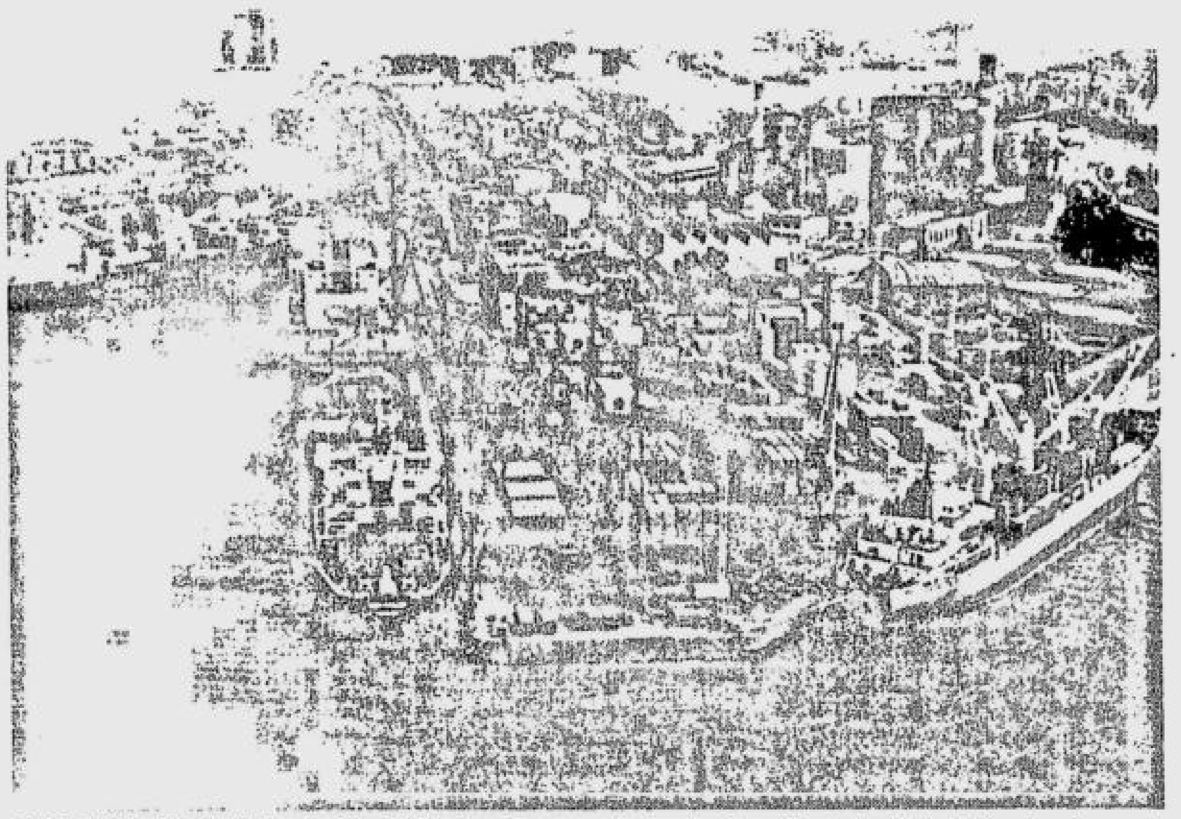
On the other hand, Reinoso said, investments in power, water and telecommunications are commercially viable and can be left entirely in the hands of the private sector.

"In many urban areas, toll roads can also stand alone, and the only subsidy needed from the government would be on the right-of-way," Reinoso said but noted that toll roads could only be viable in areas where operations could be justified by sufficient traffic volume.

From the viewpoint of the private sector, former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo says investors, in proposing to undertake infrastructure projects, do not necessarily demand for or even expect dole-outs from the government.

"Unlike in the past, when the government gave sweeping guarantees, the practice now is the unbundling of risk guarantees so that the burden on the government is mitigated," De Ocampo said, referring to the segregation of construction, management and financing functions between the private and public sectors.

De Ocampo currently chairs a consortium that has proposed to undertake a $1.2-billion mass railway project that will link Bulacan and Quezon City.



THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines is currently developing a "sustainable logistics development program" to address needs to distribute goods and services all within the context of the country's goal to be globally competitive. The program involves developing the country's port facilities.

Pricing mechanisms

"The government must ensure a level playing field and see to it that the rules by which public utilities must operate and compete are fairly and consistently applied over time," Benpres Holdings Corp. chair Oscar Lopez said.

He said government should provide "enlightened" regulators who, while protecting the rights of the consumer public, would also ensure that providers of public service would be able to operate a business model that would enable them to sustain their businesses and earn a reasonable return.

"It is equally vital that the regulatory process, which is designed to protect the interest of all parties, should not be politicized. The executive and legislative branches of government should allow the regulator to do his job properly and without political pressure or intervention, although this may be asking for the impossible under present circumstances," Lopez said.

He added that consumers, for their part, must:

- Be prepared to pay the true price for any service provided to them based on the true and transparent cost of providing that service, citing that service providers are not in a position to provide massive subsidies to specific classes of consumers.
- Be prepared to support the creation of reserve capacity to cover constant fluctuations in demand and should be mindful that it takes years to bring new capacity on stream and that without adequate reserves, shortages and outages will be suffered.

The World Bank agrees that arms-length regulatory agencies must be established to strengthen the infrastructure policy agenda.

"Investors are aware of political pressures that regulators face and of the vulnerability of their long-term immobile investments. The government needs to make a credible commitment to respect regulators' independence and autonomy and clarify the rules of the game," it said.

Lopez, meanwhile, called for stronger action from the government and the consuming public to crack down on water and electricity pilferers.

"Neither the government nor the consuming public can sit back and tacitly condone the theft or pilferage of essential services," he said.

Legal reforms

The need to review the BOT law has also come to the attention of regulators and investors.

Neda's Reinoso said ambiguities on the extent of how the government could provide guarantees would have to be resolved. Provisions on direct and indirect guarantees would have to be cleared, he added.

Also in need of a clear-cut definition is when a contract could be considered "onerous," he said, citing a case involving the Naia Terminal 3 project.

Reinoso agreed that the issue over the returns that public utilities were entitled to would have to be clarified.

The Public Service Law prescribes that a public utility cannot go over 12 percent in terms of rate-of-return-base, a level that Reinoso believes is "not realistic" for infrastructure projects "as the cost of money is much higher."

However, while the BOT provision should already be an explicit jurisprudence as far as allowable profitability of utilities is concerned, a conflicting Supreme Court ruling in the 1960s that interpreted the Public Service Law insisted on a modest limit. This has hampered flexibilities provided by the BOT law, according to Reinoso.

There are also some suggestions from the private sector for the government to consider using non-cash assets to subsidize projects that are otherwise financially not feasible.

"The BOT law does not allow the government to contribute any property or asset to a project without being paid for such contribution. But such contribution could be the determining factor in making an infrastructure investment financially feasible for the private sector," an official of Ayala Land Inc. said.

"In general, infrastructure projects will have to deal with the seesaw of consumer affordability and investor financial feasibility. Any government contribution that will close or reduce the gap between the two is welcome," he added.

Reinoso said apart from upgrading the BOT law, there is also a need to amend the charters of various state-owned firms to clarify their authority to enter and choose their partners.

Recently, the Supreme Court nullified a property development contract covering the Public Estates Authority-Amari development project along Roxas Boulevard, citing that the project did not pass through a public bidding and that a public domain should not be owned by a private company. This was after the developer, Cyber Bay Corp., had already invested over P9 billion in the project.

Privatization is key

The World Bank said privatization of existing assets is still a crucial element in drawing private sector investments in infrastructure.

"International experience shows the importance of letting the pace of privatization be driven by a strong central unit with direct access to key decision-makers rather than by self-interested line agencies," it said.

Such role can still be played by the Committee on Privatization, it said.

In the future, however, the bank said the role of the BOT center should be reviewed and strengthened. A distinction should be made between the "sell" and "buy" side of the process. While the COP should be the main entity for disposing of government assets, the BOT should focus essentially on promotion to potential investors, it said.

Finally, everyone agrees that competitive bidding procedures must be applied to infrastructure privatization. The process for selecting, soliciting, evaluating and awarding projects should be simplified, standardized and made more transparent.

LGU reforms

The existing framework for infrastructure management at the LGU level also does little to foster development in poorer and more remote parts of the country, according to the World Bank.

Because very few LGUs have either the capability to design, construct, operate or bid out infrastructure projects, the bank said four areas should be targeted for state intervention.

First, the bank said the LGU financing framework should be modified by realigning block transfers to force larger cities to rely more on their own internal sources of revenue from property and business taxes.

Second, the bank suggested that LGU enterprises and activities be privatized or given out through concessions. LGUs tend to invest their scarce capital in business enterprises where there is strong investment interest from the private sector, it noted.

Third, the bank urged the development of the financial market financing option for the larger LGUs with a more diversified revenue base. It estimated that about 150 Philippine LGUs could tap the private financing market.

"A start could be made by working with credit rating agencies and financial markets to identify the preconditions for LGU access to financial markets," the bank said.

Fourth, the bank said performance pressures on LGUs must be intensified, as benchmarking performance indicators for each LGU could tighten governance and accountability. Making the comparative results available to the public, community groups and local business could significantly increase performance pressures, the bank stressed.

Sectoral reforms

Further reforms are likewise needed down to the level of each of the key infrastructure sub-sectors: power, water, transport and even telecommunications.

While the passage of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act laid the foundation for creating a more competitive power sector and moving ahead on the privatization of the National Power Corp., there is still a need to address the poor financial and managerial performance of electric cooperatives and to encourage greater private sector participation in the sector.

The World Bank thus suggested the following reforms on the power sector:

- Strengthen the Energy Regulatory Commission.
- Restructure the National Electrification Administration.
- Rationalize franchise areas and open up unserved areas to qualified new entrants.
- Improve the efficiency and finances of weak electric cooperatives.
- Rationalize tariff and subsidy policy.
- Encourage the privatization of Napocor's small power utility group operations.

On the deficit-ridden water sub-sector, the World Bank said there should be a shift in emphasis from BOT projects to privatization of existing assets. Although BOT projects being pursued outside Metro Manila will enhance supply capacity, the bank said these still do not address fundamental problems such as inadequate investment, inefficient operations and deficiencies in maintenance as well as management of the distribution system, billings and collection.

"Privatization of existing assets addresses these issues while removing the gap between bulk and retail tariffs," the bank said, adding that the government must move toward transparent and solicited bidding to ease up the present problem of too many unsolicited bids tying up the water sector.

CREWMEN of a construction firm pour asphalt on one of Manila's roads.

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From MANILA

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	THU	11:00 pm	SF 14	P4	FRI	6:30 pm	BREDCO
	SUN	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	MON	6:00 pm	BREDCO
CAGAYAN de ORO	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	FRI	11:59 am	PUNTOD
	MON	10:00 am	SF 14	P4	TUE	7:30 pm	PUNTOD
	THU	11:00 pm	SF 14	P4	SAT	10:00 am	PUNTOD
CEBU	MON	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	TUE	6:00 pm	CIP
	TUE	3:00 pm	SF 12	P4	WED	11:59 am	CIP
	THU	7:00 pm	SF 12	P4	FRI	4:00 pm	CIP
	SUN	9:00 am	SF 12	P4	MON	6:00 am	CIP
CORON	FRI	4:00 pm	OLOM	P4	SAT	6:00 am	CORON
COTABATO	SAT	10:00 am	SF 2/5/9	P4	MON	5:30 am	POLLOC
DAVAO	MON	2:00 pm	SF 1/8	P14	WED	6:00 pm	SASA
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 1/8	P14	MON	5:00 pm	SASA
DIPOLOG	FRI	11:59 pm	OLOS	P 14	SUN	3:00 pm	DIP
DUMAGUETE	MON	11:59 pm	OLOM	P14	WED	11:00 am	DGTE
	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	FRI	4:00 am	DGTE
DUMAGUIT	MON	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	TUE	5:30 am	DUM
	WED	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	THU	5:30 am	DUM
	SAT	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	SUN	5:30 am	DUM
GEN. SANTOS	MON	2:00 pm	SF 1/8	P14	WED	8:00 am	MAKAR
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 1/8	P14	MON	7:00 am	MAKAR
ILIGAN	THU	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P14	SAT	9:00 am	ILIGAN
	SUN	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	TUE	10:00 am	ILIGAN
ILOILO	THU	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P14	FRI	5:00 pm	SNPED
	MON	10:00 am	SF 14	P4	TUE	5:00 am	SNPED
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 1/8	P14	SUN	5:00 am	SNPED
MASBATE	TUE	11:00 pm	OLOS	P 14	WED	6:00 pm	MSBTE
NASIPIT/ BUTUAN	MON	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	WED	11:00 am	NASIPIT
	THU	11:59 pm	SF 1/8	P14	SAT	9:00 am	NASIPIT
OZAMIZ	THU	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P14	SAT	1:00 pm	OZAMIZ
	SUN	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	TUE	2:00 pm	OZAMIZ
PALOMPON	TUE	11:00 pm	OLOS	P 14	THU	3:00 am	PALOMPON
P. PRINCESA	FRI	4:00 pm	OLOM	P4	SAT	8:00 pm	PPS
ROXAS	MON	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	TUE	8:30 am	CULASI
	WED	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	THU	8:30 am	CULASI
	SAT	2:00 pm	OLOL	P4	SUN	8:30 am	CULASI
SURIGAO	MON	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	WED	4:30 am	SURIGAO
	THU	11:59pm	SF 1/8	P14	SAT	3:00 am	SURIGAO
TAGBILARAN	MON	11:59 pm	OLOM	P14	WED	5:30 am	TAGBI
	FRI	11:59 pm	OLOS	P14	SUN	7:00 am	TAGBI
ZAMBOANGA	MON	2:00 pm	SF 1/8	P14	TUE	6:00 pm	ZAMBO
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 2/5/9	P4	SUN	6:00 pm	ZAMBO

From BACOLOD

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CAGAYAN	FRI	9:00 pm	SF 14	BREDCO	SAT	10:00 am	PUNTOD
ILIGAN	MON	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	BREDCO	TUE	10:00 am	ILIGAN
OZAMIZ	MON	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	BREDCO	TUE	2:00 pm	OZA
MANILA	WED	3:30 pm	SF 14	BREDCO	THU	11:00 am	P4
	SUN	2:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	BREDCO	MON	11:00 am	P4

From CAGAYAN de ORO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	TUE	11:59 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	WED	1:00 pm	BREDCO
DUMAGUETE	FRI	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	PUNTOD	SAT	6:00 am	DGTE
ILOILO	SAT	7:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	SUN	8:00 am	SNPED
MANILA	TUE	11:59 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	THU	11:00 am	P4
	FRI	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	PUNTOD	SUN	11:00 am	P4
	SAT	7:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	MON	5:00 am	P4

From CEBU

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
NASIPIT	TUE	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	CIP	WED	11:00 am	NAS
SURIGAO	TUE	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	CIP	WED	4:30 am	SUR
MANILA	MON	11:59 am	SF 12	CIP	TUE	9:00 am	P4
	WED	5:00 pm	SF 12	CIP	THU	2:00 pm	P4
	THU	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	CIP	FRI	6:00 pm	P4
	FRI	8:00 pm	SF 12	CIP	SAT	5:00 pm	P4
	SUN	9:00 am	SF 1/8	CIP	MON	7:00 am	P14

From CORON

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
P. PRINCESA	SAT	7:00 am	OLOM	CORON	SAT	8:00 pm	PPS
MANILA	SUN	11:00 pm	OLOM	CORON	MON	11:58 am	P14

From COTABATO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
ILOILO	MON	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	POLLOC	TUE	2:00 pm	SNPED
ZAMBOANGA	MON	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	POLLOC	MON	8:30 pm	ZAMBO
MANILA	MON	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	POLLOC	WED	1:00 pm	P4

From DAVAO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
GEN. SANTOS	MON	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	TUE	7:00 am	MAKAR
	WED	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	THU	7:00 am	MAKAR
ILOILO	MON	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	WED	10:00 am	SNPED
ZAMBOANGA	WED	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	THU	10:00 pm	ZAMBO
MANILA	MON	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	THU	7:00 am	P14
	WED	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	SAT	4:00 am	P14

From DIPOLOG

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
TAGBILARAN	SUN	11:59 pm	OLOS	DIPOLOG	MON	6:00 am	TAGBI
MANILA	SUN	11:59 pm	OLOS	DIPOLOG	TUE	5:00 pm	P14

From DUMAGUETE

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CAGAYAN	FRI	6:00 am	SF 2/5/9	DGTE	FRI	11:59 am	PUNTOD
TAGBILARAN	WED	5:00 pm	OLOM	DGTE	WED	8:00 pm	TAGBI
MANILA	WED	5:00 pm	OLOM	DGTE	FRI	4:00 am	P4
	SAT	9:00 am	SF 2/5/9	DGTE	SUN	11:00 am	P4

From DUMAGUIT

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
ROXAS	TUE	7:00 am	OLOL	DUM	TUE	8:30 am	CULASI
	THU	7:00 am	OLOL	DUM	THU	8:30 am	CULASI
	SUN	7:00 am	OLOL	DUM	SUN	8:30 am	CULASI
MANILA	TUE	3:30 pm	OLOL	DUM	WED	7:00 am	P4
	THU	3:30 pm	OLOL	DUM	FRI	7:00 am	P4
	SUN	3:30 pm	OLOL	DUM	MON	7:00 am	P4

From GEN. SANTOS

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
DAVAO	MON	9:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	MON	5:00 pm	SASA
	WED	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	WED	6:00 pm	SASA
ILOILO	TUE	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	WED	10:00 am	SNPED
ZAMBOANGA	THU	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	THU	10:00 pm	ZAMBO
MANILA	TUE	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	THU	7:00 am	P14
	THU	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	SAT	4:00 am	P14

From ILIGAN

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	SAT	10:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	SUN	11:59 am	BREDCO
OZAMIZ	TUE	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	TUE	2:00 pm	OZA
	SAT	11:00 am	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	SAT	1:00 pm	OZA
MANILA	TUE	11:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	THU	5:00 am	P14
	SAT	10:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	MON	11:00 am	P4

From ILOILO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CAGAYAN	TUE	7:00 am	SF 14	SNPED	TUE	7:30 pm	PUNTOD
DAVAO	SUN	7:00 am	SF 1/8	SNPED	MON	5:00 pm	SASA
GEN. SANTOS	SUN	7:00 am	SF 1/8	SNPED	MON	7:00 am	MAKAR
ILIGAN	FRI	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	SNPED	SAT	9:00 am	ILI
OZAMIZ	FRI	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	SNPED	SAT	1:00 pm	OZA
MANILA	TUE	4:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	SNPED	WED	1:00 pm	P4
	WED	11:59 am	SF 1/8	SNPED	THU	7:00 am	P14
	SUN	10:00 am	SF 14	SNPED	MON	5:00 am	P4

From MASBATE

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
PALOMPON	WED	8:00 pm	OLOS	MASBATE	THU	3:00 am	PALOMPON
MANILA	THU	4:00 pm	OLOS	MASBATE	FRI	11:00 am	P14

From NASIPIT / BUTUAN

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CEBU	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	NAS	THU	4:00 pm	CIP
	SAT	4:00 pm	SF 1/8	NAS	SUN	6:00 am	CIP
SURIGAO	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	NAS	THU	5:00 am	SUR
	SAT	4:00 pm	SF 1/8	NAS	SAT	8:00 pm	SUR
MANILA	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	NAS	FRI	6:00 pm	P4
	SAT	4:00 pm	SF 1/8	NAS	MON	7:00 am	P14

From OZAMIZ

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	SAT	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	SUN	11:59 am	BREDCO
ILIGAN	TUE	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	TUE	9:00 pm	ILIGAN
	SAT	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	SAT	8:00 pm	ILIGAN
MANILA	TUE	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	THU	5:00 am	P14
	SAT	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	MON	11:00 am	P4

From PALOMPON

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
MASBATE	THU	7:00 am	OLOS	PALOMPON	THU	2:00 pm	MASBATE
MANILA	THU	7:00 am	OLOS	PALOMPON	FRI	11:00 am	P14

From PUERTO PRINCESA

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CORON	SUN	9:00 am	OLOM	Pps	SUN	10:00 pm	CORON
MANILA	SUN	9:00 am	OLOM	Pps	MON	11:59 am	P14

From ROXAS

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
DUMAGUIT	TUE	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	TUE	2:00 pm	DUMAGUIT
	THU	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	THU	2:00 pm	DUMAGUIT
	SUN	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	SUN	2:00 pm	DUMAGUIT
MANILA	TUE	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	WED	7:00 am	P4
	THU	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	FRI	7:00 am	P4
	SUN	12:30 pm	OLOL	CULASI	MON	7:00 am	P4

From SURIGAO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CEBU	THU	9:00 am	SF 2/5/9	SUR	THU	4:00 pm	CIP
	SAT	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SUR	SUN	6:00 am	CIP
NASIPIT	WED	8:30 am	SF 2/5/9	SUR	WED	11:00 am	NAS
	SAT	5:00 am	SF 1/8	SUR	SAT	9:00 am	NAS
MANILA	THU	9:00 am	SF 2/5/9	SUR	FRI	6:00 pm	P4
	SAT	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SUR	MON	7:00 am	P14

From TAGBILARAN

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
DIPOLOG	SUN	9:00 am	OLOS	TAGBI	SUN	3:00 pm	DIPOLOG
DUMAGUETE	WED	8:00 am	OLOM	TAGBI	WED	11:00 am	DGTE
MANILA	MON	10:00 am	OLOS	TAGBI	TUE	5:00 pm	P14
	WED	11:00 pm	OLOM	TAGBI	FRI	4:00 am	P4

From ZAMBOANGA

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
COTABATO	SUN	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ZAMBO	MON	5:30 am	POLLOC
DAVAO	TUE	8:00 pm	SF 1/8	ZAMBO	WED	6:00 pm	SASA
GEN. SANTOS	TUE	8:00 pm	SF 1/8	ZAMBO	WED	8:00 am	MAKAR
ILOILO	MON	11:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ZAMBO	TUE	2:00 pm	SNPED
MANILA	MON	11:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ZAMBO	WED	1:00 pm	P4
	THU	11:59 pm	SF 1/8	ZAMBO	SAT	4:00 am	P14

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Japan's jobless rate unchanged

TOKYO—Underlining Japan's gloomy economic outlook, the country's unemployment rate held steady at 5.4 percent in September, hovering above the 5-percent mark for the 15th straight month, the government said Tuesday.

Japan's persistent joblessness has created a new battleground within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party about how to reboot the flagging economy—and has even stymied the release of the government's latest reform plans.

"We can't stop worrying about the job situation," Labor Minister Chikara Sakaguchi told reporters, as the government raced to draw up a new unemployment safety net amid forecasts that jobless will rise in coming months.

Since hitting a record 5.5 percent in December—the highest since the government began keeping track about 50 years ago —unemployment has not slid below 5.2 percent.

Economists expect the ranks of jobless Japanese to swell as old jobs in manufacturing and construction are eroded by an economic slowdown that has plagued Japan for more than 10 years.

The figures released Tuesday by the Labor Force Statistics Office underline that trend, showing that the number of jobless Japanese rose for the 18th straight month to 3.65 million people. At the same time, the number with jobs fell by 430,000 people to 63.53 million for the 18th consecutive month of declines.

"You shouldn't expect the unemployment rate to fall anytime soon," said Ryo Hino, an analyst with JP Morgan in Tokyo, who predicts the unemployment rate will hit 5.8 percent by the end of next year.

Despite efforts to reverse Japan's slump, unemployment has now emerged as a hurdle to the government's own economic reform efforts.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has pledged to turn the economy around and has charged get-tough economy minister Heizo Takenaka to start clearing out 42 trillion yen ($336 billion) in bad loans that have burdened the nation's banks.

But the much anticipated release of Takenaka's reform measures was postponed last week, when ruling Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers feared the plans were too severe.

Many lawmakers worried a sudden and swift clearing out of the bad loans would cause many banks to fail and in turn bankrupt many companies that depend on the banks for cash. That would only exacerbate already high unemployment, they argued.

"There is very strong resistance to any measures that might accelerate business failures and unemployment," said Shigenori Okazaki, an analyst with UBS Warburg in Tokyo. "That fear is shared by many politicians."

In a disappointment to markets that had expected a bold move, Takenaka delayed the reform measures until the government could also devise an unemployment safety net for those thrown out of work by any ensuing economic upheaval.

The new plans are due out by the end of the month.

In its October report, the Bank of Japan fingered unemployment as a major obstacle to economic recovery and said there has been little improvement in recent months. *AP*

Vietnam seen loosening motorbike parts quota

HANOI—Vietnam will loosen a recently imposed quota on imported motorbike parts that has forced two Japanese manufacturers to halt production, a government official said Tuesday.

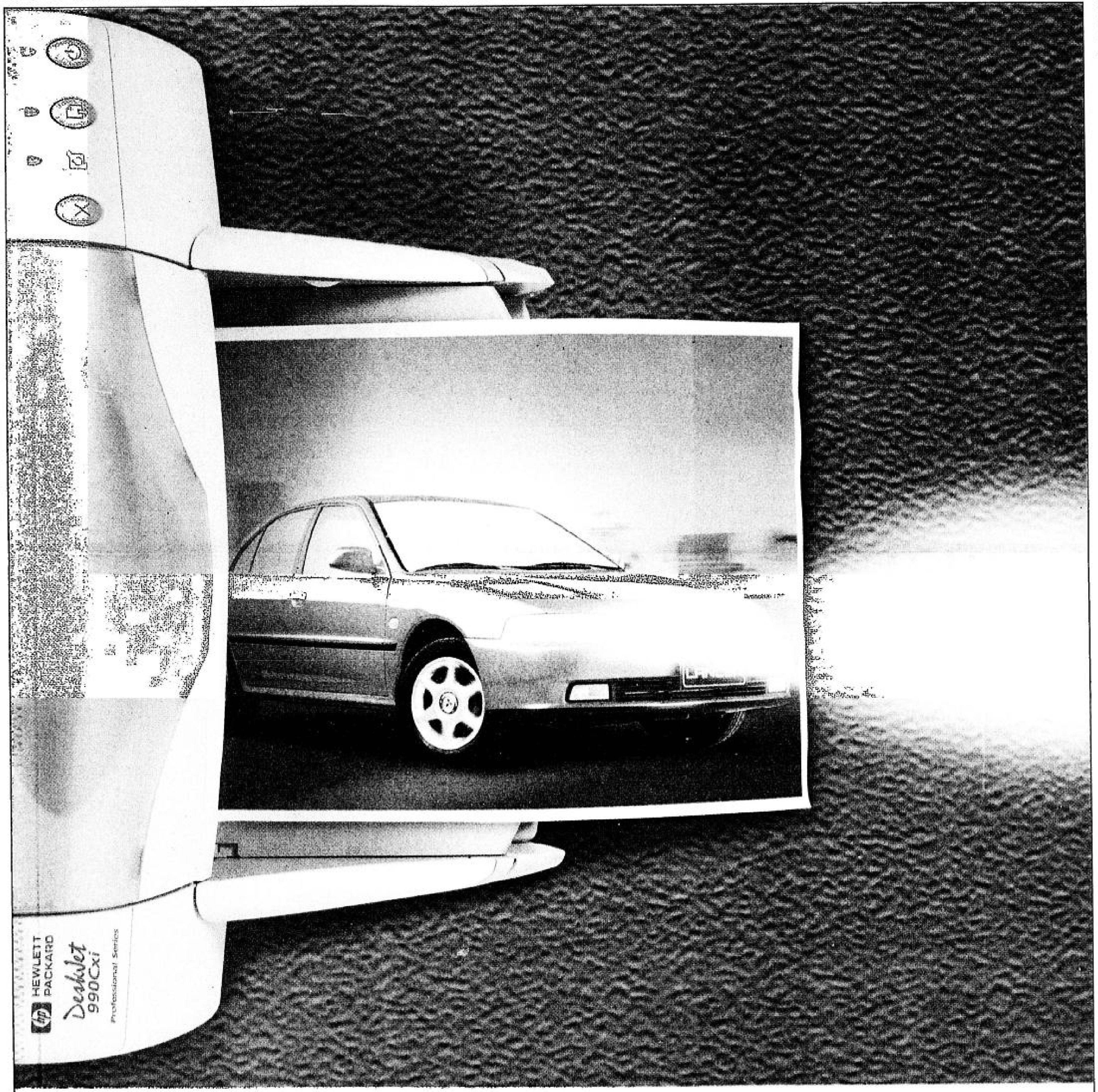
Starting in January, foreign motorbike assemblers will be able to import as many parts as they need to meet the production capacity stipulated in their investment licenses, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He did not elaborate on the reason for the relaxation of the quota.

Both Honda Motor Co. and Yamaha Motor Co. were forced to suspend motorbike production at their Vietnamese plants after the government suddenly lowered the annual ceiling on imported parts kits in September to 1.5 million from last year's 2.5 million.

The Japanese manufacturers contended that the more restrictive quota was a protectionist measure by Vietnam designed to force them into buying more domestic parts instead of importing them. Government officials said the decision was aimed at controlling soaring motorbike accidents.

It soured relations between Vietnam and Japan and highlighted foreign investor concerns that, despite recent efforts to become more business-friendly, Vietnam is still a risky place to operate. *AP*



Loyal customer wins dream car with lone entry in HP's "Print Your Fantasy" promo

Adhering to what one believes in can be a most rewarding experience. For Engineer Ponce P. Josef, it most certainly is.

Winning the grand prize in HP Philippines' recently concluded "Print Your Fantasy" promo, Ponce drove a brand new Mitsubishi Lancer MX. What makes this win more special is the fact that Ponce, an engineer and plant and maintenance supervisor at Roosevelt College System in Cainta, has been, and continues to be, a loyal person of HP products. "I bought my very first HP printer in 1997, and up to now, I use HP printers," exclaims Ponce.

Being the engineer that he is, Ponce is very strict when it comes to details and specifications of any equipment used -- even down to the ink cartridges he uses for his printers. "Since I have a direct hand in the selection and purchase of supplies and equipment, I make sure that I use only original HP ink cartridges," Ponce admits.

The "Print Your Fantasy" promo is a lucky draw program initiated by HP Philippines that intends to reward lucky buyers of original HP original inkjet cartridges. "This is HP's way of thanking our customers for being loyal only to the original HP cartridges," says Jun Juntila, Supplies Business Manager for HP's Imaging and Printing Group. "Aside from getting the perfect quality printouts for everyday and business needs, our customers get a chance to win exciting prizes. At the end of the day, in using original cartridges, everyone is already a winner."

"HP's established leadership in the imaging and printing space is all because of our customers' recognition and support for our products," says Rose Hwan, general manager, HP Philippines' Imaging and Printing Group. "This effort, along with others that we constantly do, is also intended to further strengthen our relationship with HP loyal customers."

Ponce directly admits, however, that there came a time when he succumbed to the "tempting" offer of a fly-by-night ink cartridge supplier. "I have to admit that I once tried those refill offers that are proliferating nowadays," says Ponce. "But my secretary, who frequently uses our printer, reported just after the first try that the output wasn't really good. The print quality I required was not met."

"Aside from the quality of the printed materials, I was also very worried that it might affect the printer unit itself," adds Ponce. "This learning experience has maintained my loyalty for original HP products, particularly their ink cartridges."

His loyalty, as he soon found out, won for him a brand new car, courtesy of HP. And no one is more surprised with his win than Ponce himself. He thanks the staff of TCA (Sta. Lucia branch) for reminding him of the promo when he bought his new set of ink cartridges. "Since I am regular customer there, I already consider some the staff as my friends," says Ponce. "Just as I was about to go out of the store, the guard urged me to join the contest." Ponce politely obliged thinking that he has nothing to lose. This was Ponce's first and only entry into the contest. And the rest is history.

With so many entries in the lucky draw, Ponce did not expect winning. "I asked the caller several times if it's really true that I won," says Ponce. "When she repeatedly mentioned that this was from HP, that's when I started to believe that I really won."

"For me, HP is a very credible international company. I have already established a high level of trust in the company and their products," adds Ponce. "I have been working in the engineering field for years already and my support for HP will remain strong as ever."

ADV'T.

Congratulations to Mr. Ponce P. Josef

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Mehry Lyn Maluto

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Laurence S. Laurina
Jaizon B. Rubino
Ofelia P. Santos

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2306, Series of 2002

Japan, Europe told to help as US economy falters

TOKYO—Japan and Europe must fix their economies to boost global growth, as former driver the United States struggles to avoid a double dip recession, a top investment banker said Tuesday.

"According to our estimates, global GDP (gross domestic product) will slow to 2.5 percent in 2002, the threshold that many define as a global recession. In region after region growth is anaemic at best," said Robert Scott, president and chief operating officer of Morgan Stanley.

Events such as the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington last year, the Bali bombing earlier this month and the increased threat of war with Iraq have placed the world economy in a precarious position, he told a business forum organized by the Nihon Keizai economic newspaper in Tokyo.

If the US economy slips into a double dip recession, following last year's slump, many others countries would follow suit, Scott warned.

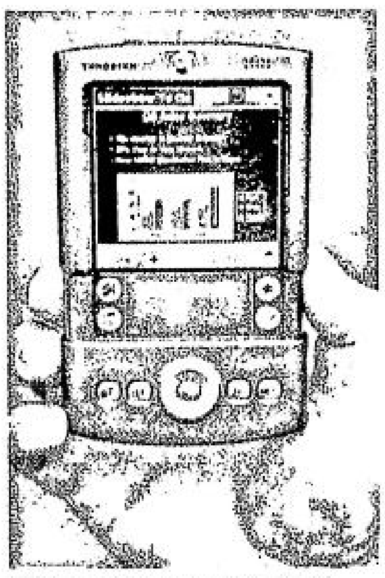
"A multinational effort is required to pull the global economy out of this slump. Japan and Europe's contribution to global growth is vital. It must be far greater than it has in the past several years." Since 1995, US domestic demand has grown by around 5 percent a year, more than double the average rate of two percent in the rest of the world, "underlining the world's dependence on the US as the sole engine of growth." But US consumers "may not be able to continue its buying spree for much longer," he said.

Europe's economy will expand by a feeble 1.1 percent in 2002 and 2.8 percent next year, according to the US bank's predictions. Adding to the gloom, Japan—the world's second largest economy—will likely contract by 0.4 percent this year and can only expect growth of 0.9 percent in 2003, Scott said.

The US economy would expand 2.4 percent this year, according to Morgan Stanley, but the bank recently downgraded its GDP growth projections for 2003 to 3.1 percent.

Japanese authorities must remove the massive weight of nonperforming loans from the banking system to boost the economy, said Scott. *AFP*

A MACHINIST finishes sewing a toy in a factory in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen. Shenzhen is an economic boomtown where many foreign entrepreneurs have set up factories taking advantage of abundant cheap labor. AFP



PALM Inc.'s newest handheld computer, the Tungsten T, will retail for $499. AP

Japanese carmakers off pollution hook

TOKYO—A Japanese court on Tuesday ordered the central and Tokyo city governments to pay compensation for health problems caused by diesel exhaust fumes but rejected a demand that vehicle makers be made to pay as well.

It was the first time that Japanese automakers had been taken to court in a suit over health problems related to pollution.

The Tokyo District Court ruled that the national government, Tokyo city government and a public highway corporation owed 99 plaintiffs a total of 79.2 million yen ($642,600) for contributing to their health problems.

The plaintiffs, who suffer from pollution-related diseases such as asthma, had sought a combined 2.23 billion yen ($18 million) in compensation and an injunction against emission of pollutants. The injunction was also rejected by the court.

"Although I have some problems with the verdict, it is the responsibility of the administration to help those whose health has been damaged," Kyodo news agency quoted Tokyo governor Shintaro Ishihara as saying.

Ishihara, who has sought to reduce the number of diesel-powered vehicles in the capital, said the Tokyo city government would not appeal against the ruling.

Construction Minister Chikage Ogi said the ruling would be taken seriously.

"As far as the government is concerned, this is a very tough ruling," she was quoted by NHK national television as saying.

"I hope we can draw up comprehensive environmental policies concerning roads as quickly as possible." Plaintiffs, however, were frustrated and unhappy.

"It's a huge disappointment that the responsibility of automakers was not upheld," one man told NHK. *Reuters*

European investment banks scraping by in Asia's securities slump

HONG KONG—If you're used to surviving on scraps, you're well prepared for famine.

That about sums up how European investment banks in Asia are faring in the global securities downturn. They trailed their US rivals in clinching the biggest deals and now are hurting less.

"Our emphasis is on the traditional brokerage business. It's a defensive business even during more difficult times like the last two years," said Michael Oertli, managing director and head of Asian research at UBS Warburg.

Outflanked by Wall Street firms in the race for lucrative initial public offerings and merger deals, European banks focused on smaller markets like Thailand, bread-and-butter brokerage services and niche businesses like derivatives trading.

They currently are doing a bit of hiring, whereas their US rivals are cutting staff in the moribund environment for mergers and IPOs.

"The European banks do not provide all things to all people. They focus on value-added services and long-term relationship building," said a Hong Kong-based banking analyst, who asked not to be identified.

Goldman Sachs, Citigroup's Salomon Smith Barney and JP-Morgan occupied the top three slots in the rankings of Asia's biggest merger advisers, accounting for about 54 percent of total merger and acquisition volume in Asia outside of Japan in the third quarter of 2002, according to the latest data from research firm Thomson Financial.

And these US banks have taken a hit as M&A volumes in Asia outside of Japan shrank 33 percent to $20.5 billion in the first nine months of 2002 compared with a year earlier.

Historical links to the Asia-Pacific region helped European banks carve out niche areas for growth.

Dutch Financial group ING, which employs 10,500 people across 15 nations in the region, has hired some 27 analysts, traders and salesmen so far this year.

The bank, which lead-managed a bond issue by the Imperial Japanese government back in 1902, says old ties often come in handy during rough times.

"We still maintain 10 stock exchange seats in Asia. This means that we have a very robust trading platform to deliver to clients," Sheel Kohli, a spokesperson at ING, told Reuters.

ING recently set up a four-man equity derivatives business in Hong Kong and added two others to its regional hedge fund team.

Britain's Barclays Capital, which employs 1,050 people in the region, is also expanding, opening offices in South Korea and Thailand and boosting its India presence.

"These (staff) numbers have increased slightly over the last year as we have been able to add some good people while also taking advantage of normal turnover to upgrade our people," said a Barclays spokesperson. *Reuters*

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HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

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MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.618M 8903461 loc 34

PARANAQUE

BnewMervilePark 3M 8133828

PASIG

LLA 448 FA 347 3BR 3TB 2Car VV1 • 0917-4149898

RUSH VV6 945m² 6BR 9TB P25M only 6337601-03

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Taytay FA 250 LA 350 5BR Cash 700T Ass 1.6M 627-9195

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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QUEZON CITY

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LOT

MARIKINA

LA 1578sqm Creme cor. Tangerine • 0917-4149898

MASINAG 199m²@P4,800 near market/gate 410-4577

QUEZON CITY

Corinthian Lots 863 and 923sqm Tx 0917-4149898

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★FAIRVIEW 150m²@P5500 nr SM/Robinsons 4104577

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MAKATI

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PASIG

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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APARTMENT

MAKATI

1631 Benito Nr PRC 563-7241

MANILA

1BR NR P.GIL ST. 563-4007

Studio Fully Furn Malate nr DLSU ST. SCHD, PGH, PWU 523-5465

QUEZON CITY

1BR Ateneo/Eastwd 6815834

CUBAO Female P3.5 9124428

FOR LEASE

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

ROOM & BOARD

Ldy Mkt 8950134 / 8907136

Twin/Triple Sharing w/ A/C TB nr DLSU, ST.SCHO, PWU 523-5465

MAKATI

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99Pregio 345T 7317984/6550

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CARS

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L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MB100 Hiace Pregio 2973807

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

STAREX MB HIACE 8257135

URVAN, MB CAR 937-02-71

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BUYING USED CARS 8990215

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1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6560140

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o.Taking Car 8870490/95

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

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BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269687/4123543

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE ROLEX 5646593 5897041 5633742 0917-8473744

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Wanted DENTISTS 9162923

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late RUDOLF VONTOBEL was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc#44, Page#10, Book#42, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Berlin R. dela Cruz of Las Pinas City. (PDI-October 16, 23 & 30, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of **Jose Gaudinez, Jr.** has been extrajudicially settled per Doc. 322; Page No. 66; Book No. 50; Series of 2001 of Notary Public Mario G. Ramos of the City of Manila.

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NARCISO N. MIRABUENO SR. was extrajudicially settled by his heirs on Sept. 16, 2002 per Doc. 229, Page 47, Book CCLXXII, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Erlinda B. Espejo of Quezon City PDI-Oct. 16, 23 & 30, 2002

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

MERB# 299969 in the name of Ian A. Pacana - 100 shares

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Kapitolyo, Pasig City
Tel. No. 638-9478 / Fax No. 687-2861
E-mail address: mcasal@beginnings.com.ph

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **VENZON MANUFACTURING CORPORATION** with office address at **Lot 138 Brgy. Panipuan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New Export Producer of Lighting Fixtures, Furniture and Accessories** at a capacity of 3,040 pieces per year with plant site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on **October 15, 2002** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 15th day of October 2002.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Oct. 30, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Davao City Water District
J.P. Laurel Avenue, Bajada, Davao City
Tel. No. 221-9400 Fax No. 224-5392

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility & to bid for the supply & delivery of the following Pumps & Motors:

Package	Description	Ceiling of Bid Price
1	1 unit 125 Hp Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Dumoy Well #33	P 1,400,000.00
2	1 unit 200 Hp Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Alambre-Lubogan Production Well	P 1,400,000.00
3	1 unit 125 Hp Submersible Pump and Motor for Malagos Production Well	P 1,400,000.00
4	1 unit 200 Hp Submersible Pump and Meter for Tugbok Well #4 at New Loon	P 1,400,000.00
5	1 unit 100 Hp Submersible Pump and Motor for Tugbok Well #1 upgrading	P 860,000.00
6	1 unit 150 Hp Submersible Pump and Motor for Tugbok Well #2 upgrading	P 1,100,000.00
7	1 Unit 125 Hp Submersible Pump and Motor for Panacan Well #1 upgrading	P 650,000.00
8	1 unit 125 Hp Vertical Turbine Pump & Motor for Panacan Well #2 upgrading	P 1,200,000.00
	TOTAL:	P 9,410,000.00

Eligibility requirements are available at the Purchasing Division Office starting *October 30, 2002*, during its business hours. Deadline for submission of eligibility documents will be on or before *November 13, 2002*. Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference and Opening of Bids will be announced later.

Suppliers/Manufacturers and Dealers with pending overdue deliveries and acceptance are not allowed to partipate.

DCWD resesrves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids received and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District

(Sgd.) ALFONSO E. LAID
Asst. General Manager for Administration
Chairman, Bid & Canvass Committee

(PDI – Oct. 30 & Nov. 6, 2002)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Dental scent

Q. Why do all dental clinics smell the same?

A. What you're smelling is a mixture of essential oils dentists frequently use in the course of treatment. Many of these oils are natural or synthetic derivatives of products found in many households. A number of dental medicaments contain camphor, the same pungent substance that repels moths, while other are derivatives of items found on the spice rack: thyme and clove. The most prominent scent in a dental clinic is probably eugenol, a colorless or pale liquid that is the essential chemical component of clove oil. Dentists combine solutions of clove oil or eugenol with a mixture of rosin and zinc oxide to prepare a protective pack after gum surgery or as a temporary cement. Eugenol is also used as an antiseptic, especially in root-canal therapy, and as an anodyne (painkiller). This versatile liquid is also part of the mixture for temporary fillings, impression materials, and surgical dressings after periodontal (occurring around the tooth or affecting the gums) work.

Name Game. Listerine. The brand of mouthwash and gargle was named in honor of Joseph Lister, the 19th-century British surgeon who pioneered antiseptic surgery and sanitary operating room procedures. Listerine was developed by American physician Joseph Lawrence in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1880, and was manufactured locally by the Lambert Pharmacal Company (later to become the drug giant Warner-Lambert).

Ooops! Contrary to popular notion, white wine does not necessarily came from white grapes, and red wine from red grapes. White wine can come from grapes of any color. Although the skin and meat of some grapes is dark colored, the liquid in almost all grapes is light. To make red wine, the red skins are fermented along with the white grape juice.

WORD WATCH

Ubas: from the Spanish *uvas*, 'grapes.'

PDI – Oct. 30, 2002

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
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DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

The Baluma and Aleria families
of Marobojoc, Bohol
The Most Reverend Jesus Y. Varela, D.D.
Bishop of Sorsogon
The Clergy of Sorsogon
The Society of the Holy Family

entrust to your prayers the soul of

REV. MSGR. ARTEMIO ALERIA BALUMA, HP, LLM, JCD

who has passed away to eternal life
on October 27, 2002 in Cebu City.

His remains lie in state at the Cebu Rolling Hills Memorial Chapel, Banilad, Cebu City.

His body will be transferred to Marobojoc, Bohol on October 31, 2002. Interment will be on November 5, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass of the Resurrection at the Sta. Cruz Parish Church, Marobojoc, Bohol.

Please OMIT flowers. Donations are accepted for the Msgr. Artemio A. Baluma Foundation for the Society of the Holy Family.

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Matthew 10:39

In Loving Memory
On the 10th Death Anniversary of

JAIME V. DY BUNCIO

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory today,
October 30, 2002 at:

Mary the Queen Church *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	6:00 P.M.
Santuario de San Jose *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	6:15 A.M.
Christ the King Church *Greenmeadows Ave., Q.C.*	6:00 P.M.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church *Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, Q.C.*	7:00 A.M.
Santuario de San Antonio *Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:00 P.M.
St. John Bosco Church *Pasay Road, Makati City*	7:30 A.M.
St. Francis Church *Shaw Blvd, Mandaluyong City*	6:00 P.M.
Center for Peace Asia *Lopez-Rizal St., Mandaluyong City*	12:15 P.M.

His family and relatives would like to request friends and relatives to remember him in their prayers.

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
HIEDELIZA C. SOLIS	Oct. 30	9:00 AM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Memorial Park Calamba City	B47 L43 San Ramon De Canlubang, Kapayapaan Ville, Assa I, Canlubang, Laguna
RUBEN C. CENTRA	Oct. 30	1:00 AM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	#12 Bolivar St., Meralco Vil., Taytay, Rizal
SERGIO A. BAJON	Oct. 30	8:00 AM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Chapel A, Angono, Rizal

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Republic of the Philippines
DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Km. 5, J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City, Philippines
Tel. No. 221-9400 (connecting all departments)
Tel. Nos. 221-62-18 to 19 (Regional Training Center, Madapo Hill, Davao City)
Fax: (82) 2264885

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Notice is hereby given to all interested contractors under PCAB Category Medium A and below with specialty on Electrical for the Upgrading of Electrical Facilities of Tugbok Production Well (PW) Nos. 1 & 2, Panacan Production Well (PW) Nos. 1 & 2, and the proposed Site Development (Electrical Works) of Production Wells @ Malagos, New Loon and Alambre, all in Davao City.

APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

UPGRADING OF ELECTRICAL FACILITIES:	
● Tugbok PW No. 1	Php 235,790.81
● Tugbok PW No. 2	341,204.22
● Panacan PW No. 1	270,686.78
● Panacan PW No. 2	270,686.78
SITE DEVELOPMENT (Electrical Works)	
● Production Well @ Malagos	270,686.78
● Production Well @ New Loon	421,166.68
● Production Well @ Alambre	421,166.68

TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT – Php2,231,388.73

Pre-C/Eligibility requirements are available at the DCWD BAC-B office starting **October 23 to November 6, 2002**, during its business hours. Deadline for submission of Pre-C/eligibility documents will be on or before November 13, 2002. Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference and Opening of Bids will be announced later.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids received and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO
Chairman, DCWD BAC-B

(PDI - Oct. 23 & 30, 2002)

National Power Corporation
Generation Company 1

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The NPC GENCO-1 Bids and Award Committee (BAC) is inviting Contractors to apply for prequalification/eligibility and to bid for **SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF CABLES, SWITCHES AND DESKTOP PC FOR THE UPGRADING AND REHABILITATION OF LOCAL AREA NETWORK (LAN) IN NPC GENCO-1 MAIN OFFICE AT PORT AREA, MANILA. (ES 02-02).**

Application for prequalification/eligibility is open to all Filipino Contracting Firms with valid license and/or business permit. Prospective Bidders must be able to prove his Experience, Equipment, Capability as well as his Financial Capacity to perform the services called for.

Eligibility Forms and Bid Documents shall be available for issuance to interested applicants, from October 24 to November 07, 2002 (Monday to Friday at 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.), at the Contracts Management Office (CMO), 3rd floor, NPC GENCO-1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, upon presentation of original copy of the applicant's valid business license and/or certificate SEC/DTI, together with the Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Eight Hundred Pesos (P 800.00) per copy.

The Approved Budget of the Contract to be Bid is P 4,708,990.00 and shall be completed within 30 Calendar Days.

For purpose of prequalification and bidding activities, the following schedule will be observed.

ACTIVITIES	
• Pre-bid Conference	November 11, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.
• Submission of Eligibility Form/Documents And Opening of Bids	November 26, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.

Both activities shall be held at the Conference Room, 4th floor NPC Bldg., Port Area, Manila

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason; waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the Bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. NPC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the Bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparations of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd) LORNA T. DY
Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 24 & 30, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
ILOCOS TRAINING AND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
San Fernando City, La Union

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

October 17, 2002

The Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center thru the Bids and Awards Committee is inviting bids from accredited contractors of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and Interagency Committee with a license & registration of at least "Medium A" buildings for the following projects

PACKAGE #1: a. Construction of Administrative Building (Phase II)
b. Renovation of PT building
PACKAGE #2: a. Construction of Surgical Building (Phase II)
b. Construction of Covered Walkway
PACKAGE #3: a. Renovation and Repair of the OPD-ER

The dates to be followed are

1.	Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (bring original Copies of Contractor's license) & issuance of eligibility documents	submit to Engr. Danilo Rivera/ Mr. Robert Mendina at the Maintenance Office 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. of November 6, 2002
2.	Submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents	November 15, 2002
3.	Posting of Eligible Contractors	November 22, 2002
4	Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	November 27, 2002 (at ITRMC Conference Room)
5.	Pre-bid Conference	November 28, 2002 at 2:00 p.m.
6	Deadline of Submission of bids	December 13, 2002 at 2:00 p.m.
7	Opening of Bids	December 13, 2002 at 2:00 p.m.

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non refundable fee of Five Thousand pesos only (P5,000.00) per package.

The Committee on Bid and Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated is the most advantageous to the Government. The ITRMC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

(Sgd.) HAZEL A. BALBIDO, MD, FPPS
Chairperson BAC

(PDI - Oct. 23 & 30, 2002)

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11/F, BA Lepanto Building
6747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines
Tel No.: 892-0293, 893-8127
Fax No.: 892-0329, 810-6026

INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested contractors currently in good standing, to register, apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I. *Work Order No.* : WSA-01-029r1

II. *Project Title* : **Two (2) Year Supply of Security Services for Petrochemical Park Limay / Mariveles, Bataan**

III. *Scope of Work* : To guard and protect all personnel / employees as well as premises and properties of the company from theft, pilferage, robbery, arson, trespass / informal dwellers, bodily harm and other unlawful acts.
To assign and provide PPDC with 40 competent security personnel (36 security guards and 4 officers) and 6 support personnel (3 driver-mechanics and 3 radio operators) for PPDC Mariveles and Limay.
To provide various equipment, facilities, trainings, and other services necessary and essential in carrying out the security services.
Strictly comply with all rules, regulations, special / general orders administrative guidelines of PPDC during their tour of duties.

IV. *Project Location* : Petrochemical Park in Limay, Mariveles, Bataan

V. *Approved Budget* : Pesos Twelve Million Six Hundred Sixty Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Two and 88/100 (P 12,666,662.88)

VI. *Source of Funding* : PNOC – Petrochemical Development Corporation

VII. *Estimated Contract Duration* : Two (2) Years

VIII. *Similar Contracts* : At least one (1) year Supply of Security Services for Industrial Parks, Techno Parks Export Processing Zone

IX. Registration
Date of Registration : October 30 – November 12, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation
11/F BA Lepanto Building, 6747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
c/o BAC Secretariat
Requirements : Submit certified true copies of the following basic requirements signed by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative together with the original copies for validation:

- Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines
- Mayor's Permit / Municipal License
- Taxpayer's Identification Number
- Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation
- BIR VAT Registration
- Current PNP License to Operate (for Year 2002)
- Current PADPAO Certificate of Membership
- DOLE Clearance / Certification (of no pending cases)
- DOLE Certificate of Registration
- SSS Clearance
- Notarized statement under oath by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction / copy of the original

X. *Eligibility Statement Forms & Bid Documents* : One (1) set each to be filled up and submitted
Non-Refundable Cost of Forms & Bid Documents : Two Hundred Pesos each set (P 200.00 / set)
Date of Issuance : October 30 - November 12, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation
11/F BA Lepanto Building, 6747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
c/o BAC Secretariat
or
PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation
Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan
c/o Site Administration Department

XI *Pre-Bid Conference*
Date and Time : November 13, 2002 at 9:30 a.m.
Place : PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation
Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan
c/o Site Administration Department

XII. *Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Forms / Bid Documents*
Deadline of Submission : November 28, 2002 at 9:30 a.m.
Place : PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation
11/F BA Lepanto Building, 6747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
c/o BAC Secretariat

XIII. **PUBLIC OPENING OF BIDS SHALL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

All bids must be valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of opening of bids.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security valid for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of opening of bids equivalent to the amount, and in the form acceptable to PPDC as indicated in the Instructions to Bidders.

All particulars relative to registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its Approved Implementing Rules and Regulations.

This cancels and supercedes the Invitation to Register, Apply for Eligibility and to Bid issued on July 23 and 30, 2002.

All those interested bidders earlier registered by PPDC need not undergo registration again.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidders whose bids is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss they may incur in the preparation of their bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Signed this 28th day of October, 2002 in Makati City.

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 30 & Nov. 7, 2002)

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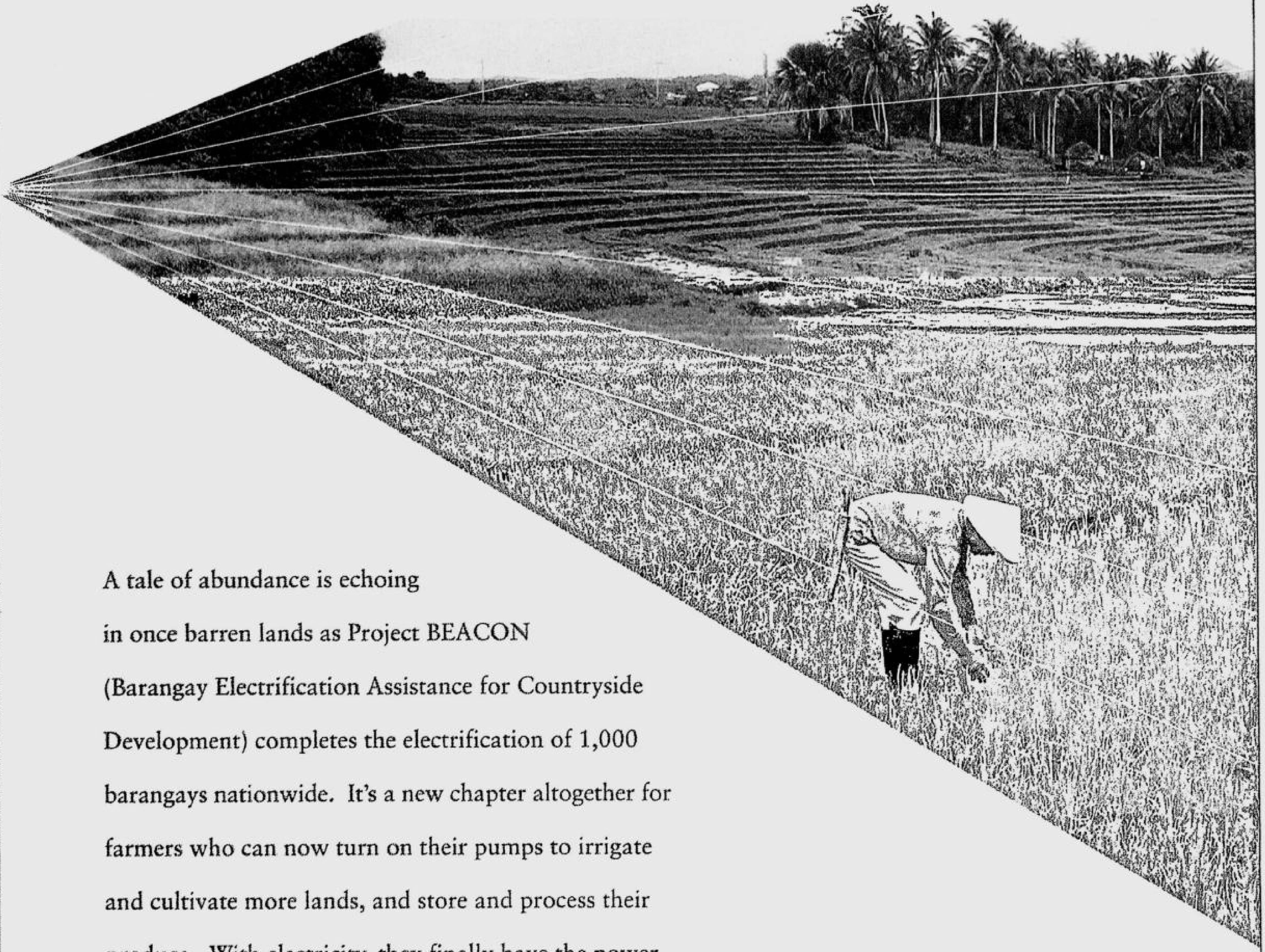

A tale of abundance is echoing in once barren lands as Project BEACON (Barangay Electrification Assistance for Countryside Development) completes the electrification of 1,000 barangays nationwide. It's a new chapter altogether for farmers who can now turn on their pumps to irrigate and cultivate more lands, and store and process their produce. With electricity, they finally have the power to change their lives and join the mainstream of Philippine development.

PROJECT BEACON

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email: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Hardworking employee waits for financial rewards

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I HAVE been with my present employer for 28 years. Additional work or tasks such as typing, filing, telephone calls, assisting visitors, giving coffee, delivering letters do not really burden me. I can do the job of two to three employees and still do well in my main job.

I am very disciplined in everything that I do. My philosophy is, as long as I am employed in the company, they can expect my full compliance with company policies. I am a focused person who enjoys work tremendously and am generous and affectionate to my co-employees. I am a friend to everyone from security guards, janitors, canteen personnel and the officers.

I am not a problematic person. But I am not perfect. Sometimes, I feel I am exploited. It is true that I still enjoy my work but with the hard times, I complain to myself why I am not given additional pay for working double or triple that of an ordinary employee. Yes, I have a job description but over the years, it has not been updated to conform to the workload I am handling today. My problem is this: is there a way I can get additional pay? What percentage can I ask for if I work twice or three times those of other employees?

Multi-Skilled Employee

You are indeed a rare and precious employee for three reasons. First, you have an optimistic and positive attitude towards your work. Second, you are able to build relationships with everyone in the organization. And third, you are willing to undertake tasks given to you without complaining.

Human capital

In today's parlance, you are a person whose human capital has appreciated in value, competence and skills over the years. However, as you rightfully mentioned, your compensation has not improved as you expected.

To understand your situation, find out what is the compensation paradigm in your company. If your company's compensation system is competency based, which is the trend today, then you may want to talk with your human resource manager. Request an updating of your job description and job evaluation for your position. However, if your company follows the traditional compensation system, you may already be a "red circle" situation. This means you have already hit the salary ceiling for your level and thus, you will only receive minimal increases.

Speak out

If you are in the latter situation, discuss with your boss what is possible. With candor and with consideration, share with him your thoughts in the same way you wrote your letter to me. The manner and tone in which you wrote the letter is just appropriate-looking at the facts but also feeling the need to do something about the situation.

It is important to speak out because it is a sad reality that in most organizations the diligent, reliable and quiet office workers who keep the. workplace humming, are neglected in terms of reward and recognition. Management's attention is often focused on the "superstars" or the "problematic" employees. To my mind, in this age when teamwork is critical, the person who can add value to the company is a loyal employee whose learning curve continues to rise and unselfishly shares his or her know how with other employees.

Valuable employee

I urge companies to give "most valuable employee awards" to honor those employees who quietly but surely provide the backbone for value-adding work in organizations. If basketball teams are able to give such awards, why can't we do it in business?

To our readers who request for research materials, references or send me interview questions to answer, please be informed that I have made it a policy not to respond to such requests due to my busy schedule. Since I would not want you to get failing marks because of my inability to attend to your requests, please address your concerns to our e-group anxiouspersonatwork@yahoogroups.com where the members of the group may be able to respond to your needs.

I also ask for patience from our readers asking for advice. I try to answer your requests on a first-come, first-serve basis. With an average of 10 letters a week and the column coming out once a week, I know you understand the reason for the delay. Thank you to the many readers who wrote to say that you regularly clip and post on bulletin boards this advice column. I am grateful to all of you for enabling me to achieve my personal mission "to be a helping hand to individuals and companies" through this column.

Illustration by Stephanie Bravo

(You can listen to Ms Puangco "live" at the People at Work Live! Seminar Series on Nov. 13 at the Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, H. V. de la Costa St. corner Makati Ave., Makati City. She will discuss "Strategic Thinking Tools for Managers." Call tel. no. 935-6678 to register.)

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.*)*

BREAKFAST CHAT

How to turn failure into success

GONZALEZ

By Ricky B. Garcia

HAVE you ever failed? Most of us have at one time or another. Thus, many people will not take risks for fear of failure. But history is full of people who failed and whose failures led them to even greater successes.

This was the topic of People at Work's segment in Studio 23's Breakfast recently. Breakfast host Ria Tanjuatco interviewed Enrique Gonzalez, head of IP Ventures, a venture finance company for media properties like Match TV, on how to turn failure into success. Below is the gist of the interview.

PaW: What are the causes of success and failure in business?

Enrique: There is a saying that "to know where you've been, look at your present condition; to know where you're going, look at your present action." We normally equate winners with success and losers with failure. If we study closely what separates the two, it is really in how they do things, how they play the game.

PaW: How does one become a real success?

Enrique: Most people think of success in terms of accumulation of wealth as exemplified by business and political leaders and the like. I would like to redefine success as "one's positive contribution every step of the way." When you talk to people who have achieved real success in business, they will tell you that money/market cap/valuation is only the measure and is secondary. Becoming successful means having a passion for what you are doing. I cannot emphasize how important this is in achieving your goals.

PaW: What is the right attitude towards success and failure?

Enrique: The right attitude is acknowledging your failures and appreciating your success and vice versa. It is only then that you will truly learn from your mistakes and manage the growth of your venture correctly. If one fails to realize this, you may succeed by chance but this often leads to an "easy come, easy go" situation.

PaW: How do you perceive and respond to business failure?

Enrique: Failure in business comes in many ways. You have general failure, which leads to bankruptcy or insolvency. But what's more commonplace is everyday operation failures mostly in person-to-person dealings. We are talking of failed negotiations, failed ideas and failed missions. The response should always be to recognize the mistakes and move forward, reflect and act on a plan. The "now" factor is very important. You can't afford to wait and lose your chance to turn around the situation. Oftentimes, you will have the opportunity to "nip it in the bud," so to speak, before it becomes a full-fledged problem.

PaW: What are the top reasons why people fail in business?

Enrique: There are both internal and external reasons for this. Some things are simply out of our control such as the weather, global market conditions and the political environment. Internally however, most business failures are outcomes of lack of planning and understanding of the "real" situation. This is why for most entrepreneurs, the business planning part should be grounded with the beat of the market. It cannot be written from an ivory tower.

PaW: How do you turn mistakes into stepping-stones in business?

Enrique: The ability to learn and grow from one's mistakes is the key success factors in your career and business. If managed properly, and you learn from your mistakes, these serve as building blocks to a brighter future. For example, R&D labs have a 1 to 1000 success/failure ratio. Quantitatively, one may interpret this as a huge failure but the organization is able to capitalize on the single success and translate it to tremendous benefits.

PaW: What are the positive benefits of a negative experience?

Enrique: Really learning and growing wiser.

PaW: Any strategic advice you can give that will help move beyond mistakes to realize potentials and achieve success?

Enrique: Success and failure really go hand in hand. Both are tools that one can employ to reach your objectives. Find something you have a passion for with an allowance for failure. This is one way to accelerate your growth as an individual and to achieve success. Keep an open mind. Don't allow success or failure to give you tunnel vision. By having an open mind, you can spot signs or what we call "unexpected" success which are usually the "eureka" of great ideas.

(Send feedback to drgarci88 @yahoo.com*)*

Do single moms get a life?

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

YOU'RE a single working mom, do you get a life?

"Yes, and more!" writes Thelma Sioson San Juan, Metro editor in chief, Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist, and re-singled working mom, . in the October issue of Metro Working Mom. You deserve a life, "even when the kids around you demand more than a lifetime from you," she declares.

How do we manage that? I'd like to share Thelma's scraped-from-experience advice. Her witty and wise nuggets are food for thought for every working mom, single or married, newly wed or a veteran of marriage trials.

* Independence is empowerment. You must be independent financially, and as much as possible, psychologically. "Emotionally self-sustained," Jackie O puts it. If you want to get a life, you must be able to afford it. Look into yourself-at what you do best-build a career/business, manage it well, and manage its returns even better. In short, sweat it out. Freedom is exhilarating, and power over your life, even more.

* Keep your friends. Not business contacts, but friends. They should love you for your sanity, and even more for your insanity. They're there at the end of the day, over bottles of wine, laughing with and at you, roller-coastering with you.

* Keep a gay. It'll take a book to explain why. It's enough to say I'm speaking from experience. My bosom gay friends give me the wisest, most insane and most hilarious advice. I think my male gays have both the feminine and masculine sides of their brain--they can be rigid and conservative in one turn, and soft, if not slutty in another.

* Enjoy the company of men, not only women. Not only for romance. Just be comfortable with them, sharing or slugging it out with them, learning from them, be it business, sports or just learning from their stupidity. I'm lucky to have kept in touch with some of my male college mates. I have regular dinners with them, with me being the only woman at the table, when we talk about anything-from high blood pressure to politics to world conflict.

* Have time for yourself. Precisely for the above and to do things for yourself.

* Love yourself. This goes beyond self-esteem and certainly, beyond conceit. Keep growing. Be a work in progress-developing, reinventing yourself. Do it not for your man, not your kids and friends, but for yourself. Look beautiful for yourself, not only for your man. Have interests that will preoccupy, if not obsess you.

* Get a lover. Ask yourself two questions-why and why not? Nobody can answer those for you, certainly not me. A nun, who's been my mentor and friend through my growing-up and growing-old years, has put it so well to me: "You'll know if something and someone is good for you--if it's life-giving." The people you let into your life must enhance it, not mess it up. Or at least the messing-up shouldn't be indefinite.

* Have a center. A core. An anchor within yourself. A source of inner strength. You won't find strength and anchor from outside of yourself-things and people will only be an escape. At the end of the day, you go home into yourself and to your God. Spirituality, it is called. It is what makes you sleep tight at night.

* Forgive yourself. The same degree you love yourself. Guilt is strong in single moms--what did I get my kids into, you ask yourself over and over. Calibrate your guilt. Always put it in the right perspective and context.

"The above is a long shopping list," Thelma offers. "Life is a series of trade-offs; for every thing you lose, you get something back. I love it when, tired of my prying into their gimiks, my kids mock-scream at me: 'Ma, get a life!' Words of wisdom from our best teachers--our kids."

If you'd like to read more about advise for single working moms, grab a copy of Metro Working Mom. Every issue has a feature on single parenting.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Working Mom. You can write to her at mwm_abscbn@skyinet.net. *For more tips, get the latest copy of MWM with Lucy Torres on the cover)*

THE LAGUNA CHAPTER OF THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (PICPA) PARTNERS WITH OPTIMUS MANAGERS & ADVISORS, INC. TO CO-ORGANIZE THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER PEOPLE AT WORK LIVE! SEMINAR SERIES. PICPA-LAGUNA CHAPTER PRESIDENT CONRADO ROXAS (THIRD FROM RIGHT) SHAKES HANDS WITH PDI SVP FOR SALES AND MARKETING RENI REINOSO (SECOND FROM RIGHT). OTHERS IN PHOTO ARE (FROM LEFT): PICPA LAGUNA CHAPTER DIRECTORS, SALI PANGILINAN, IMEE PACLIBAR AND MARIO AGNAS; PICPA-LAGUNA CHAPTER PRESIDENT-ELECT LINA DILAO AND DIRECTOR SUSANA MENDIOLA, OPTIMUS ACCOUNT MANAGER JET ABUGAN, PDI MARKETING SERVICES HEAD DONALD LIM, OPTIMUS MEDIA PROJECTS AND EVENTS DIRECTOR RICKY GARCIA AND OPTIMUS MARKETING DIRECTOR MIA ACUNA

THE UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM LAGUNA (UPHSL) WILL HOST THE PEOPLE AT WORK LIVE! SEMINAR SERIES AND JOB FAIR AS IT GOES TO THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR THE FIRST TIME ON NOV. 23, 2002 (SATURDAY) FROM 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M. UPHSL CHANCELLOR KAREN TAMAYO (SECOND FROM LEFT) SEALS THE AGREEMENT WITH PDI SVP FOR SALES AND MARKETING RENI REINOSO (SECOND FROM RIGHT). LOOKING ON ARE (FROM LEFT): UPHSL'S COLLEGE OF BUSINESS DEAN SUSANA MENDIOLA, OPTIMUS ACCOUNT MANAGER JET ABUGAN, PDI MARKETING SERVICES HEAD DONALD LIM, OPTIMUS MEDIA PROJECTS AND EVENTS DIRECTOR RICKY GARCIA, AND OPTIMUS MARKETING DIRECTOR MIA ACUNA. PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

BUSINESS

Oct. inflation seen hitting 3.1%

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said the annual inflation in October was likely to be in the range of 2.7 percent to 3.1 percent.

In September, the country posted a 2.9 percent annual rise in prices. The October data will be announced next week. The rate of consumer products price increases fell to a 30-month low of 2.6 percent in July.

"We will likely feel the impact of the fuel price increases effected in the previous months in the month of October," said Buenaventura.

Several economists and analysts believed that the inflation for the month could range between 2.4 and 3.4 percent.

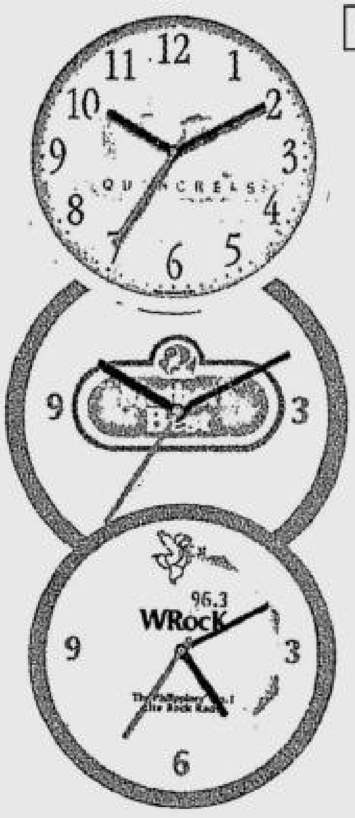
Buenaventura said that despite the higher inflation anticipated for October, the annual average would still be safely within the government's target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent. Economists believe that inflation will pick up in 2003 on the back of higher oil and food prices.

The nine-month inflation average stood at 3.3 percent.

While inflation had remained benign this year, the central bank governor said the government must maintain a modest inflation target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent in 2003 instead of the 4 to 5 percent target approved by the Development Budget Coordinating Committee.

"We will push for a review of the 2003 inflation," the BSP chief said pointing to global uncertainties, primarily the brewing conflict in the Middle East that could affect oil prices, as major factors that could put pressure on the inflation rate.

Other factors such as the rising oil prices, a possible wage hike in November, and the El Niño weather disturbance are threats to a stable inflation next year, Buenaventura said.



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RISK TO HOUSEHOLDS

2-3M out of 12M LPG tanks in use found defective

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SOME 2-3 million of liquefied petroleum gas cylinders that should have been scrapped due to defects are still being used, according to an industry source.

The source, who asked not to be named, said that about 12 million LPG cylinders in circulation should have been turned in for quality control test not later than June 30 this year. "But no comprehensive requalification has been done until now," the source said in an interview.

"Of the 12 million cylinders, half are due for requalification," he said. "We also believe that one out of four of these cylinders should already be scrapped."

The source said big LPG companies were doing their own inspection of the cylinders they use. He alleged that the use of sub-standard tanks were rampant among small independent LPG businesses that tend to hold back expenses. Due for scrapping are rusty LPG tanks with bumps or dents and damaged collars or bottom rims.

The source said the irresponsible use of defective cylinders became very rampant after the downstream oil industry was deregulated in 1998.

"When the industry was opened up, about 270 new LPG players came in and while industry rules are strict, the government could not implement them effectively," he said.

He added that this was very alarming considering that LPG was being used in most households for cooking.

"Reports of destructive fires attributed to explosions of LPG tanks are becoming common now," he said.

It was earlier reported that LPG businesses scrimping on costs resorted to backyard repairs shops to make their tanks appear better.

The guidelines of the Philippine National Standard for LPG cylinders, issued in 2000, provide that:

- cylinder makers should have furnaces that can control high temperatures up to 650 degrees Celsius;
- welders should be qualified and certified by recognized third-party certifying institutions;
- manufacturers should be equipped with weigh scales, hydraulic pressure testers, tensile stress testers, thickness gauges, calipers, micrometers, etc.;
- the cylinders should pass a number of tests including those for thickness, bending, expansion, bursting and leakage.

Proposed LPG code obtains support in House

CONGRESSMEN crossed party lines recently in a bid to hasten the passage of a proposed bill that intends to make the use of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) safer for households and commercial establishments.

This was disclosed by Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. who said both administration and opposition congressmen had vowed to support the bill which is now pending in the Lower House.

Perez said the proposed law was designed to make LPG industry participants accountable and responsible, and to stamp out the illegal LPG refilling business, which posed serious risks to the safety of households and businesses.

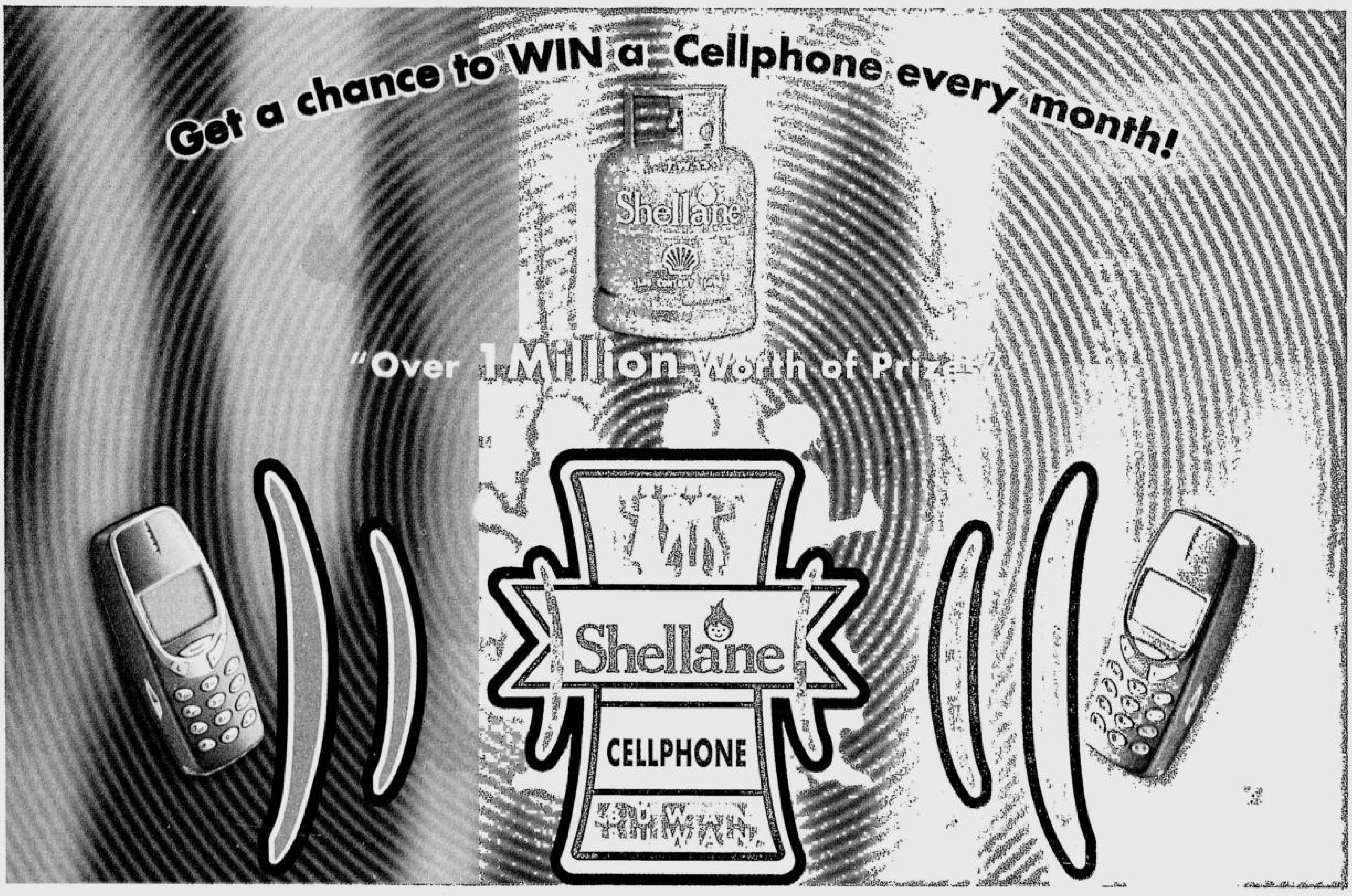
The bipartisan support for the bill comes in the heels of recent raids by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on establishments suspected of engaging in the unauthorized refilling and selling of LPGs.

Perez said the proposed code "will make it more difficult for the illegal refilling business to thrive." The code provides for new mechanisms such as pre-qualification requirements for LPG industry participants.

The proposed code mandates the DOE to formulate quality standards for LPG products, LPG cylinders and facilities. Perez said the bills would pave the way for the adoption of international best business practices in the industry developed by the World Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association.

The proposed code also increased penalties imposed by existing laws and regulations. Perez said this was important "in order to underscore the gravity of the risks to which our families are being exposed due to substandard products and cylinders."

Recently, the DOE, through a department circular, raised the penalties on violators from P10,000 per apprehension to P10,000 per cylinder involved. Perez said the radical increase underscores the "value of the life of a loved one which is exposed to the risk of illegal cylinders." The increased penalties will be included in the proposed code.



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Promo Period: October 15, 2002 to January 15, 2003

Coverage : Nationwide, divided into the following zones: Northeast Luzon, Northwest Luzon, Central Luzon, North Metro, Central Metro, South Metro, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Cebu/Bohol, Western Visayas (except Iloilo & Guimaras provinces), Samar/Leyte North Mindanao and South Mindanao

Prizes per zone:
1st monthly draw:
Three (3) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for end users
Three (3) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for Shellane retail outlets
2nd monthly draw:
Three (3) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for end users
Three (3) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for Shellane retail outlets
3rd monthly draw:
Four (4) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for end users
Four (4) Nokia 3310 w/ SMART pre-paid SIM card for Shellane retail outlets

Promo Mechanics:
- Open to anyone who purchase Shellane LPG whether for a refill, a cylinder purchase, cylinder swap or Shellane stove promo purchase.
- Purchase can be from any authorized Shellane retail outlet, distributor showroom, direct sales team/hit team or through Shellane Hatid Bahay/Home Delivery.

Raffle ticket allocation is as follows:

Every purchase of 11 kg. refill	- 1 raffle coupon
Every cylinder swap	- 1 raffle coupon
Every purchase of 11 kg. cylinder w/ refill	- 2 raffle coupons
Every purchase of stove promo package	- 4 raffle coupons

- Customer shall fill out the raffle coupon with Name, Address, Tel. #, Name and Address of Shellane Retail Outlet and Signature.
- Drop raffle coupon(s) in drop boxes located at all authorized Shellane distributor showrooms and retail outlets.
- A winner can win only once per draw. All non-winning coupons per draw will be automatically included in the succeeding draws.
- The Shellane retail outlet indicated on the winning coupon will receive the same prize as the end user. If in case the source of purchase is a Shellane distributor showroom, direct sales team/hit team or Hatid Bahay/Home Delivery, another ticket will be drawn until a winning retailer is determined. This extra draw will be done after all the end user prizes have been awarded; the end user owner of the original ticket drawn stays on as a prize winner.
- There will be three monthly draws:

Monthly Draws	Schedule of Monthly Draws
First	November 29, 2002
Second	January 10, 2003
Third	January 30, 2003

Monthly Draws	Deadline for Submission of Entries
First	November 15, 2002
Second	December 26, 2002
Third	January 15, 2003

- The raffle draws will be held in the following locations:

Northeast Luzon - PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
Northwest Luzon - PSPC Rabon LPG Depot, Rabon, Rosario, La Union
Central Luzon - PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
North Metro - PSPC Valenzuela LPG Depot, Tatalon St., Barrio Ugong, Valenzuela, Metro Manila
Central Metro - PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
South Metro - PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
Southern Tagalog - PSPC Alaminos LPG Depot, Km. 71 Maharlika Highway, Brgy. San Juan, Alaminos, Laguna
Bicol - PSPC Pamplona LPG Depot, National Highway, Pamplona, CamarinesSur
Cebu/Bohol - PSPC Cebu Regional Sales Office, Unit 901, Keppel Center, Cardinal Rosales Ave. cor. Samar Loop, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Western Visayas - PSPC Lapus Installation, La Paz, Iloilo City
Samar/Leyte - PSPC Anibong LPG Depot, Rawis, Anibong, Tacloban City
North Mindanao - PSPC Villanueva LPG Depot, PHIVIDEC Compound, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental
South Mindanao - PSPC Sasa Installation, Sasa, Catilipan, Davao City

- Draws will be made in the presence of a DTI representative and Shellane officers.
- Winners will be notified through registered mail.
- Winners can claim their prize(s) from the nearest Shellane distributor showroom.
- To claim prize(s), winners must present the registered notice together with the claim stub and at least one valid ID
- Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation with prior approval of DTI.
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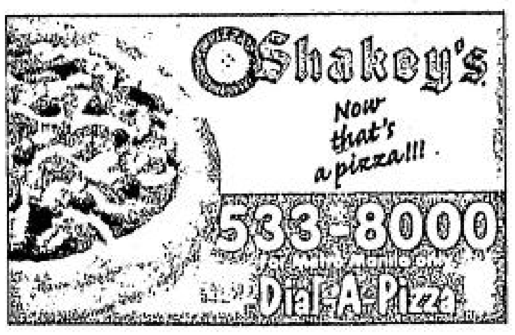
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SURVEY

What's your favorite scary movie?

By Ma. Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

MINUS the telephone call and gravelly voice, 2bU! popped the sinister question from the "Scream" series to a few victims. It appears that surprise endings and ingenious twists to what would otherwise be bland and overused plots are what make a horror flick a crowd favorite, and not the amount of spilled guts or high-tech special effects. Hoods and hockey masks off to the top three thrillers: "The Sixth Sense," "The Others" and "The Exorcist." But of course, there are other movies that might be worth a bloodcurdling scream or two this Halloween.

"Stigmata."—**BJ, 23**

"The Blair Witch Project" (the first one). Had a hard time falling asleep after that one!—**Jake, 20, AdMU**

"Ace Ventura." It had too many ugly chicks with sagging breasts throughout the movie. Really freaky.—**Pedro, 19**

"Valentine," because it can be a true story.—**Marlon Robles, 13**

"The Sixth Sense," because it is a creative visualization of what really happens to spirits and psychics. Besides, everyone likes the twist.—**Kevin, 20, AdMU**

"Esperanza," *'yung kay* Judy Ann. *Nakakatakot eh!*—**garapata**

"Signs." It's very (M. Night) Shyamalan, that's all I can say! Although the ending was not so neat as "The Sixth Sense," at least you could say "Pay It Forward" never existed.—**oceans11, 17**

"The Others." What makes it scary is the absence of blood and gore. And the twist. *Kakaiba lang talaga!*—**Lisa Sobreviñas, 20**

"The Ring." (a Japanese horror flick)—**Nats, 19, and LN Pasuelo, 19, AdMU**

"The Exorcist," because it used little effects like sound to scare audiences. You get scared with the way the actors portrayed the roles.—**Adele**

"The Sixth Sense." Do I still have to say why?!?—**Cissy, 19, AdMU**

"Halloween." It's hell-raising!—**Nikki, 15**

"Scary Movie." It wasn't really that freaky though it scared you in another sense... You know what I mean... —**Andrea, 16**

Any Japanese horror film—"The Hand," "The Ring," etc.—because they were made so well. Everything is so full of mood and suggestion. Totally messes with your mind.—**Jayca, 20, AdMU**

"The Exorcist," because the face of the little girl was scary... —**Jillie, 16**

"Halloween Resurrection."—**Tracy, 14**

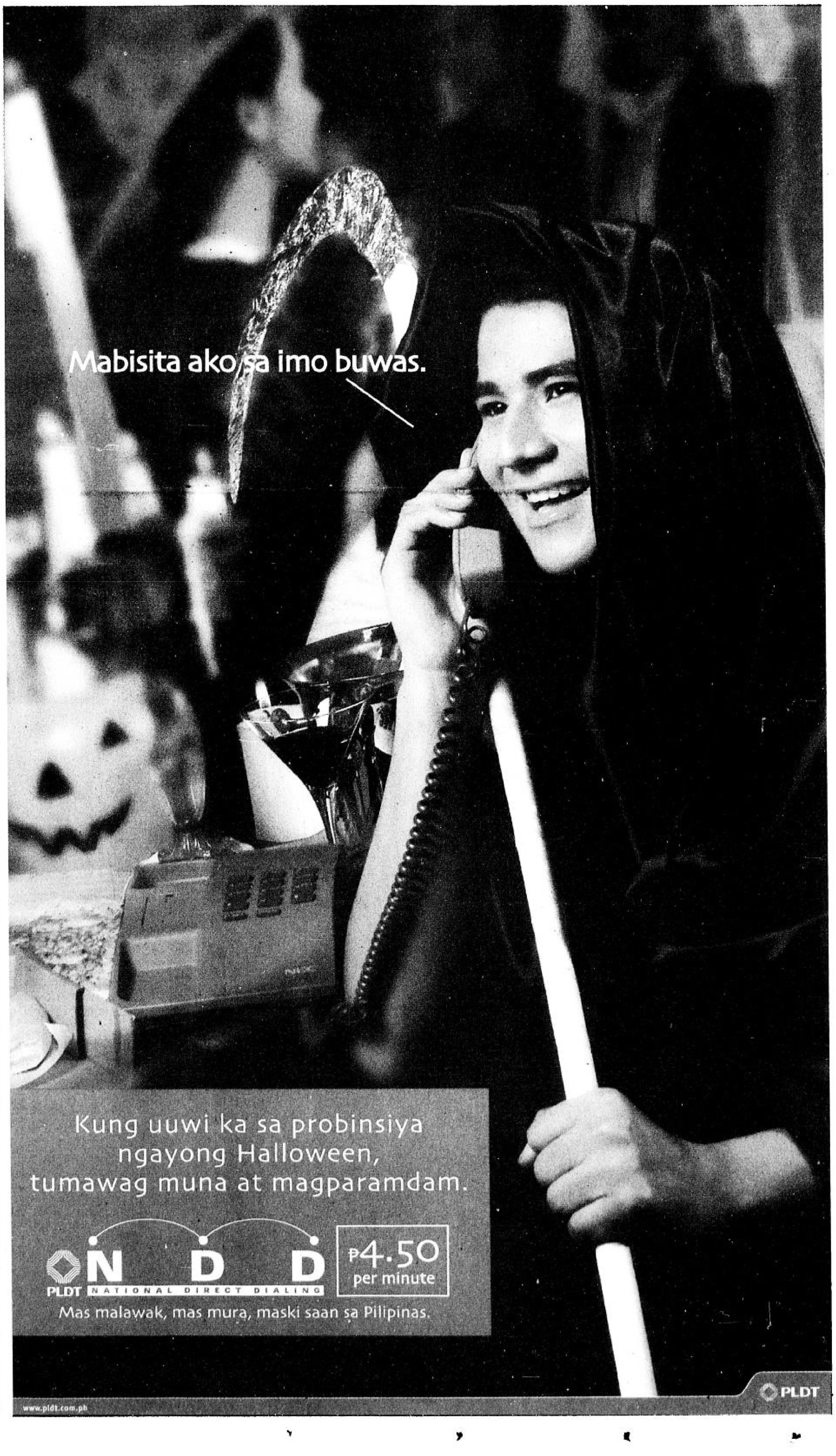
"The Others." The entire setting and storyline was creepy, and as you continue watching the movie, the more it gets nerve-wracking. But the best part was the ending because there's this impact that makes the hair at the back of your neck stand on its ends.—**Lani L., 19, AdMU**

"Scary Movie."—**sexaholic**

"The Sixth Sense." Suspense *eh.*—**Jigs, 13**

I am such a scaredy-cat... you know those action/drama/suspense thriller movies? They scare me the worst because they're so realis-

WHAT'S/ p.C8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Ghosts of Halloween past

By Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

2bU! encouraged people to reminisce on their memorable Oct. 31 moments by asking: "What is your favorite Halloween memory?"

When I dressed up as Mickey Mouse. Every adult who answered [the door] said I was adorable. Eew.—**Nio Chavez, 19**

The time [back in Australia] when I was having a Halloween party in my house, and three girls came dressed up as horny devils. That I won't forget!—**Jason Grigg, 18, AdMU**

I love watching "Magandang Gabi Bayan," *yung* Halloweeen special.—**BJ Manalo, La Salle Green Archers**

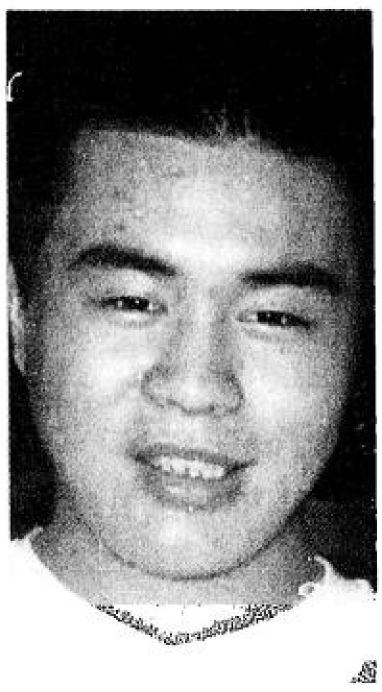
Halloween of 2000 was memorable because my student council duties conflicted with my modeling career. We organized a grand party with all the works, plus live bands and guests from different schools. Then I was asked to shoot a commercial on the same day! I decided to try to attend both events. But by the time I finally arrived, all dressed up in a bloody red dress (after shooting the commercial), dinner had been served, games played and the last band was wrapping up so everyone was frowning at me. I talked myself into staying, and I got the Best Costume award for my dress. But I was so hungry.—**Sandra Seifert, 18, "Master Showman" host/commercial model**

The time I watched the Halloween Parade in New York. I had never seen such original costumes. Plus, there was candy. Halloween is all about candies.—**Carlo Casas, 20**

Last year, my mom, my sister and I spent Halloween at Teacher's Camp in Baguio. When we came back, my aunt told us that the very same cottage where we stayed was featured in one of those "Haunted Places" specials on television. Nice, huh?—**Angela Ignacio, 19, 2bU! correspondent**

When my *barkada* and I went trick-or-treating at Core, and we met this really cute guy who gave me a "treat" I'll never forget.—**Gladi Echavarre, 19, DLSU-College of St. Benilde**

Trick-or-treating in my village is always a blast, but when I was about 11 or 12, an incident ticked me off. An American woman in our village was giving out century-old candy corn. After giving us candy, she would stamp our palms. We thought it was part of her lousy treat. It turned out to be her way of identifying who had already been to her house.—**Tammy David, 19, 2bU! correspondent**


JANGO Sarmiento, 19

JASON Grigg, 18

RHEA Austria, 19

One year, it started to rain, and it was apparent that other kids wouldn't go trick-or-treating. So my friends and I went, all dressed up, but with our umbrellas. We got sooo much candy since the houses were trying to get rid of it.—**Savannah Lumen, 16, Home Study Program**

We were making the fifth stop in our trick-or-treating. I was dressed up as a really retarded-looking cat, feeling so cool since we had so much candy in our bags. I was the first to knock on a door yelling, "Trick or Treat!". Suddenly, the knob turned and the door opened [to reveal] a tall, familiar figure. I froze because it was the guy I had a huuuuge crush on, and I was looking all dorky! I was agape. That was the last time I ever trick-or-treated.—**Xara Fuentes, 17, Home Study Program**

My favorite Halloween memory was the time I went trick-or-treat-hopping with my *barkada*. We went to Valle Verde 5, Greenmeadows and Corinthian Gardens to get candies and freebies.—**Jango Sarmiento, 19, AdMU**

When I was about 12, I wore a ballet tutu with rubber shoes and went around trick-or-treating in various villages. A car followed me while I walked so that whenever my basket was filled, I would put the contents in the car. I hauled in three sacks of candy that day.—**Kristine Fredheim, 19, dancer at the Mustang Bar**

"I never fail to watch "Magandang Gabi Bayan's" Halloween episodes even if I am unable to sleep afterwards. Yes, I'm a masochist.—**Rhea Austria, 19, AdMU**

Trick-or-treating last year, wearing my Lara Croft getup! Man, did I look sensational! Not such a big deal but it was a lot of fun for me! Girl power!—**Gretchen Fullido, 18, UP Diliman**

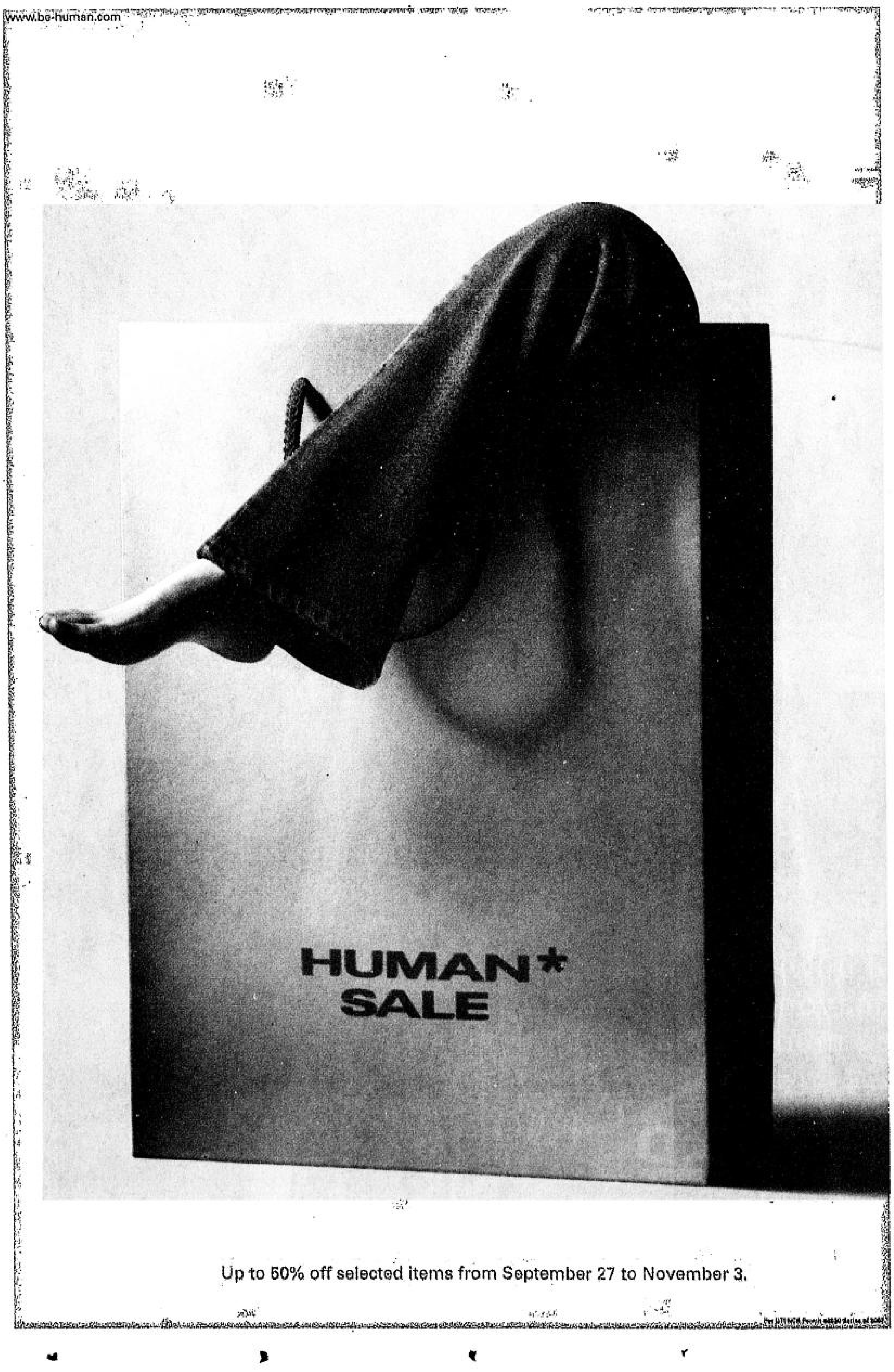
Going to the NBC Tent for the annual Cream Halloween bash. The party starts to kick at around midnight and continues until the wee hours of the morning. [It's a] complete package of sights, sounds and freaks!—**Bede Ongtengsiem, 20, DLSU**

A couple of years ago, when I wore the high school uniform of an exclusive girls' school at a party! I couldn't think of a costume, so I went through my closet and found this uniform in a corner and I decided to wear it.—**Gonzy, 20, AdMU**

All my Halloweens as a kid were memorable because of our family parties. My cousins and I would dress up in different costumes—one year I was Madonna, another I was Supergirl. We'd sit around a bonfire in my cousins' backyard and tell ghost stories while cooking hotdogs. Our Tita Bel would always prepare a surprise for us—she'd wear a really scary costume and frighten us to death.—**Pam, 22**

A Halloween party at Dasmariñas Village with my close friends. Everyone wore costumes and went trick-or-treating. Even big kids could have their treat.—**Eva Wong, 21, DLSU**

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com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Webs of fear

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico
2bU! Correspondent

SOME Halloween sites can give you the spooks, no matter how old or tough you think you are. Sometimes, though, the sites that can give you nightmares are those that aren't even trying to be scary.

www.abzerd.com/halloween

There's still time to update your personal web page for Halloween. This site will help you decorate it with "undead" gifts, fatal fonts and downloadable creepy sounds. Looking for the perfect epitaph? This site's got it. I personally like this one: "Last words: Something's very wrong!"

www.wirenot.net/X/

Archive X is a collection of paranormal stories, including case histories of out-of-body experiences, ghost stories and the author's own near-death experience. There are also inspiring testimonials from people who've had actual encounters with angels. If you believe in angels, give this site a visit.

www.gaijin.com/EvilPeople/

"Sell your soul and get a receipt." That's the tagline of this site. Ridiculous. And if you think it's just a trick, read further: "Since most of you puny mortals have rather materialistic desires, EvilPeople is more than willing to provide you with them. And we just want one teensy-weensy little thing in return—your soul." The site tries its best to achieve total annihilation of mankind, welcoming gullible souls into its fold. They might just be kidding us, but who knows? Definitely for mature web geeks only.

www.whowouldyoukill.com

Cast a vote on which character you'd like to terminate in your fave television show. Your choices of titles range from drama to comedy, including HBO's "Six Feet Under." Deal with your angst and write about why you want to get rid of that annoying character.

www. geocities.com/Hollywood/Lot/5160/gern2.html

Do you want to know why "Taxi Driver" is one of the scariest movies ever made? This site has reviews of

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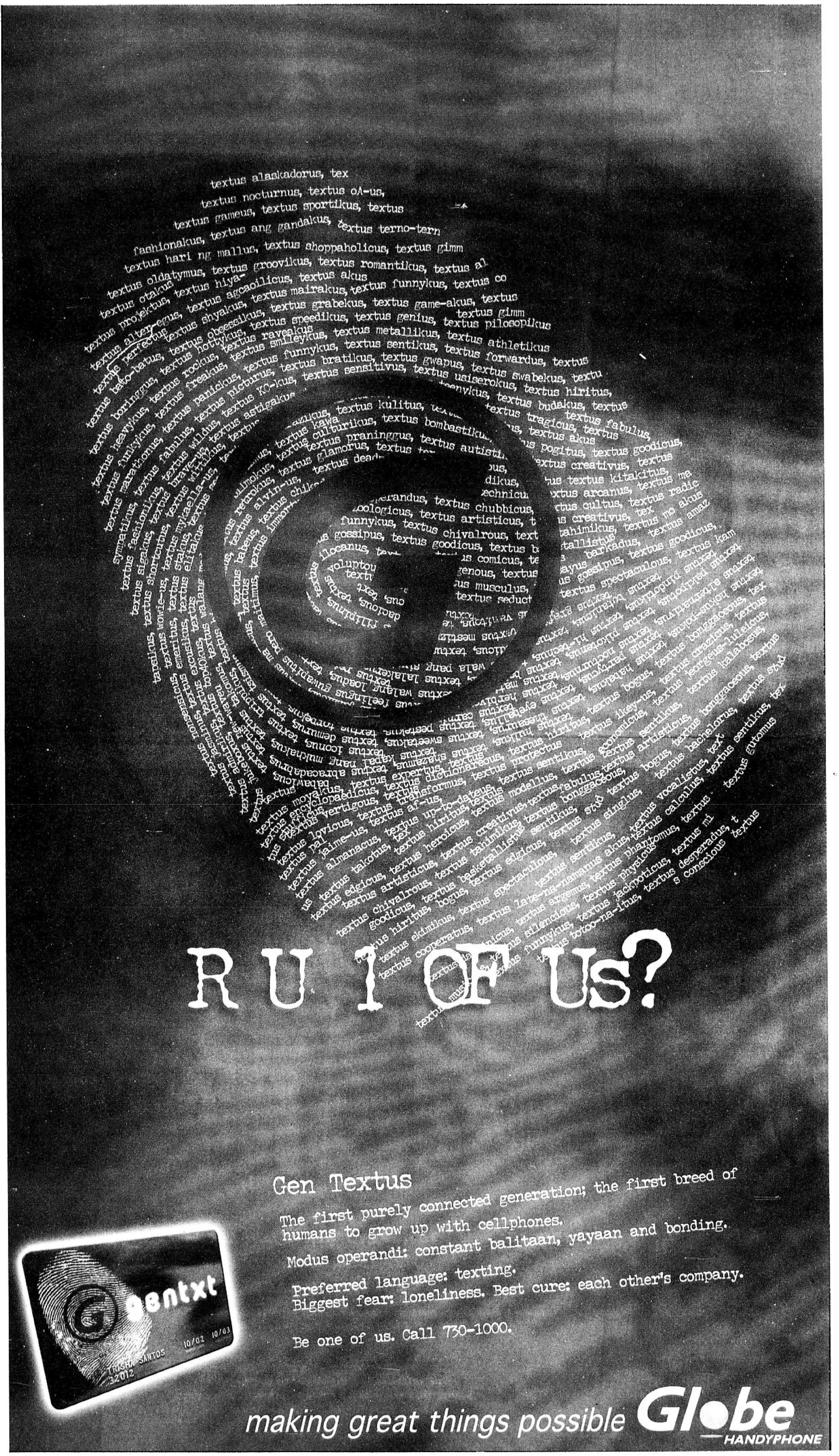
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Laughing at death and loving it

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

"YES, I know stealing a foot is weird. But living in a house where a foot is available to be stolen is weird," says Claire, the angst-ridden teenager of the Fisher family. Her words probably sum up what the latest HBO series is all about: Weirdness can be found in the most ordinary of things, like a funeral parlor, or in a larger scale, the American family.

From the writer of "American Beauty" comes this dark, comic look on a dysfunctional family, the Fishers, who operate a funeral home in Los Angeles. "Six Feet Under," created by Alan Ball, presents the many different faces of death every week, and how lives take on dramatic, but sometimes amusing, changes that captivate television audiences.

The Fishers look like your typical American family, whose funeral home business has been going quite well until its patriarch, Nathaniel (Richard Jenkins), meets an untimely death when the hearse he is driving gets slammed by a bus. This incident triggers a series of events that gives us a look on the individual lives of his family.

There's Ruth (Frances Conroy), his wife, who has been having an affair for two years already with her hairdresser. Nate Fisher (Peter Krause), the eldest among the siblings, a commitment-phobic who was living his own life in Seattle before the tragedy. David (Michael C. Hall), the middle child, who's coming into terms with his homosexuality while maintaining his relationship with an openly gay police officer. And Claire (Lauren Ambrose), who learned of his father's death while high on crystal methane. Aside from their own problems, a funeral homes conglomerate is threatening their small business when the family refused their offer to buy them out.

This series is practically adapted from "American Beauty," at least judging from its first four episodes. The parallelism in the characters is there: the two-timing wife, a rebellious teenage daughter and a closet gay. However, "Six Feet Under" has more comedy in it, adding surreal instances of dance numbers (to express Claire's happiness a day after she had sex) and talking corpses (a Mexican gang member who acted as a motivator for David). Even Nathaniel, who's already dead, appears once in a while to offer his two cents' worth on family matters. His true nature will be exposed in a future episode.

Aside from the characters, viewers look forward to each of the episode's opening. It always starts with someone in the neighborhood dying who, in turn, is serviced by Fisher & Sons. From there, different scenarios happen, usually triggered by a problem in the restoration of the dead body, or the service in general.

In "The Foot" episode, a bakery owner is accidentally cut into pieces by a large mixing machine. His family wants his pieces to be whole again, until Nate and David discover they couldn't find his feet. They thought they dropped it somewhere until they learn that Claire stole it and put it in her boyfriend's locker as a revenge for his being a kiss-and-tell guy.

But the weirdness isn't only used for comedy. In last week's episode, the talking dead body of a Mexican gang member helped David find his courage to stand up not only for his family and the funeral homes conglomerate, but also for himself.

The irony in the situation—a softie and a tough guy, living and dead—is perhaps the strength of this series. The absurdity of the circumstances offers us lessons we may not find in other shows that present ordinary and realistic conditions.

Aside from the individual lives of these characters, which we may find ourselves, the general theme of "Six Feet Under"—death—is also a commentary on how we should take a look on life. It could be as quick as getting caught in a car accident, or stupid as being trapped in a mixing machine. It could be as shocking as being shot in the chest, or prolonged as drowning in one's pool.

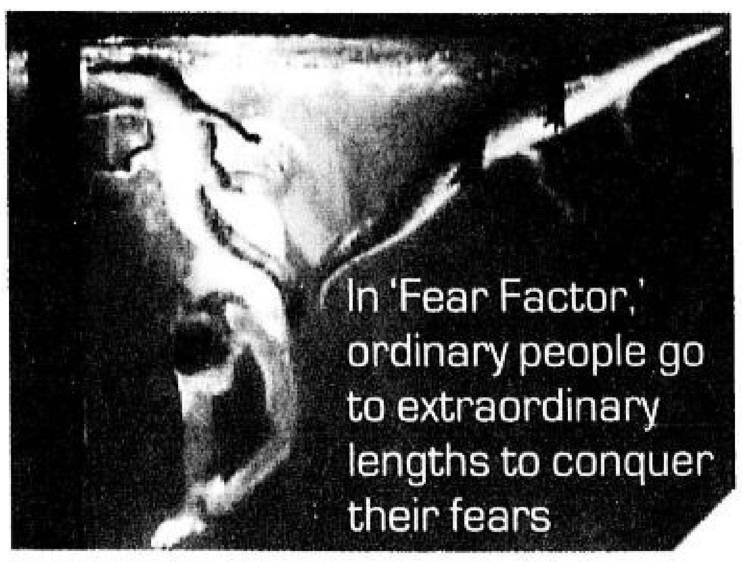
The Fisher family, who have been used to comforting grieving people, now find themselves pulled together in their own loss and must comfort themselves. With the death of the patriarch, Ruth, Nate, David and Claire are given a new lease on life, and it's up to them how they're going to move on and change the course of their paths.

So far, Ruth ended her extramarital affair, although technically she's already single. Nate now has a romantic relationship aside from his involvement in his father's business. David has recently learned to accept himself, while Claire, being a teenager, is struggling (at least there's a struggle) between school and family relationships.

These occurrences help us think over the decisions and changes in our lives, even without someone we know dying. After all, there are no second chances when you're six feet under.

Exorcising
ONE'S OWN DEMONS

By Leslie Ann C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent



In 'Fear Factor,' ordinary people go to extraordinary lengths to conquer their fears

PICTURE this. It's a beautiful day and you're all psyched up to conquer an extreme challenge. In your mind, you're thinking of jumping out of a plane or perhaps a moving car. You flex your muscles. Perhaps they'd dare you to eat some roaches. It's unnerving but you can pretend it's your favorite *chicharon*. Well, surprise, surprise.

The curtain opens, revealing a roomful of spectators itching to take snapshots. The challenge: Strut your naked stuff on the catwalk, work up the crowd, then stand on a raised platform for a full minute, with hands on your waist, showing the whole world your glorious self in your birthday suit. How's that for 50,000 bucks?

I could almost hear my head screaming, "Hell no, not even for a million bucks!" Apparently, that's just me. Well, guess what? Every week, half a dozen Americans are dared to do similar pulse racing and gut wrenching, not to mention crazy, acts.

In "Fear Factor," NBC's reality series, real people are pitted against their most primal fears. In each episode, three men and three women are confronted with a series of challenges, ranging from bull-riding, biking across a 6½-inch beam suspended way up in the air, swimming through underground canals, and even being covered by tarantulas and live snakes. That's just to warm you up.

There are also gross "edibles." Contestants are invited to indulge in pig uterus, fermented squid gut, bull testicles and the like. (On a side note, though, recent challenges included eating *balut*, which they called "duck embryo," and century egg, which they called "a hundred-year-old egg," two very familiar Pinoy delicacies.)

If they complete the task, they go to the next level; if they chicken out or fail, they are eliminated from the game. The contestant who wins the final challenge is rewarded with $50,000.

Aired over AXN every Monday at 8 p.m., "Fear Factor" is now on its second season, thanks to its growing popularity.

Playing on fears

When I first watched "Fear Factor," I was disgusted. It attacked my sanity. It was too much for the fainthearted like me. As a kid, my major fear was being left alone in the dark. I hated the feeling of being alone, thinking that someone was watching me. I could hardly take trips to the bathroom by myself, which also explains why I can take a bath in just five minutes. I could barely sit still listening to ghost stories because I would take them to bed with me, and nightmares would hold me prisoner in my sleep. My brother made me believe there was a *nuno* living in our own backyard! (I realized back then, most of my fears were borne out of what I could not see. But these days, what have scared me are the things happening in our society, which I cannot change.)

A dozen episodes later, I have been converted into a fan. Sure, it is a show that plays on your fears. But it is more than just an exercise in spooking you out, making your knees wobble or forcing you to break into cold sweat. Its beauty lies in focusing more on how you face these fears and how you rise above the situation. As the show's mantra goes, "You have been brought here for one reason: to stare fear in the eye as you compete for $50,000." So you see ordinary people going to extraordinary lengths to face their fears.

"Fear Factor" would make for a very interesting psychological study. Each player is actually competing against three elements: his/her co-competitors, the challenge and his/her worst enemy—himself/herself. It takes mental strength to exorcise your own demons. Mind over matter, honey. A lot of fears are borne out of one's imagination. The limitations that are hardest to break are those that have been self-imposed. As with most things, it is the attitude that counts. As long as you're daring, you are a winner by your own merit.

But while I've come to appreciate the show, that doesn't make me an ounce braver. Being the scaredy-cat that I am, I would rather watch brave hearts squirm and puke from the comforts of my living room. Is fear a factor? I hate to admit it, but for this little missy, fear is definitely a factor.

E-mail the author at lestan@i-manila.com.ph

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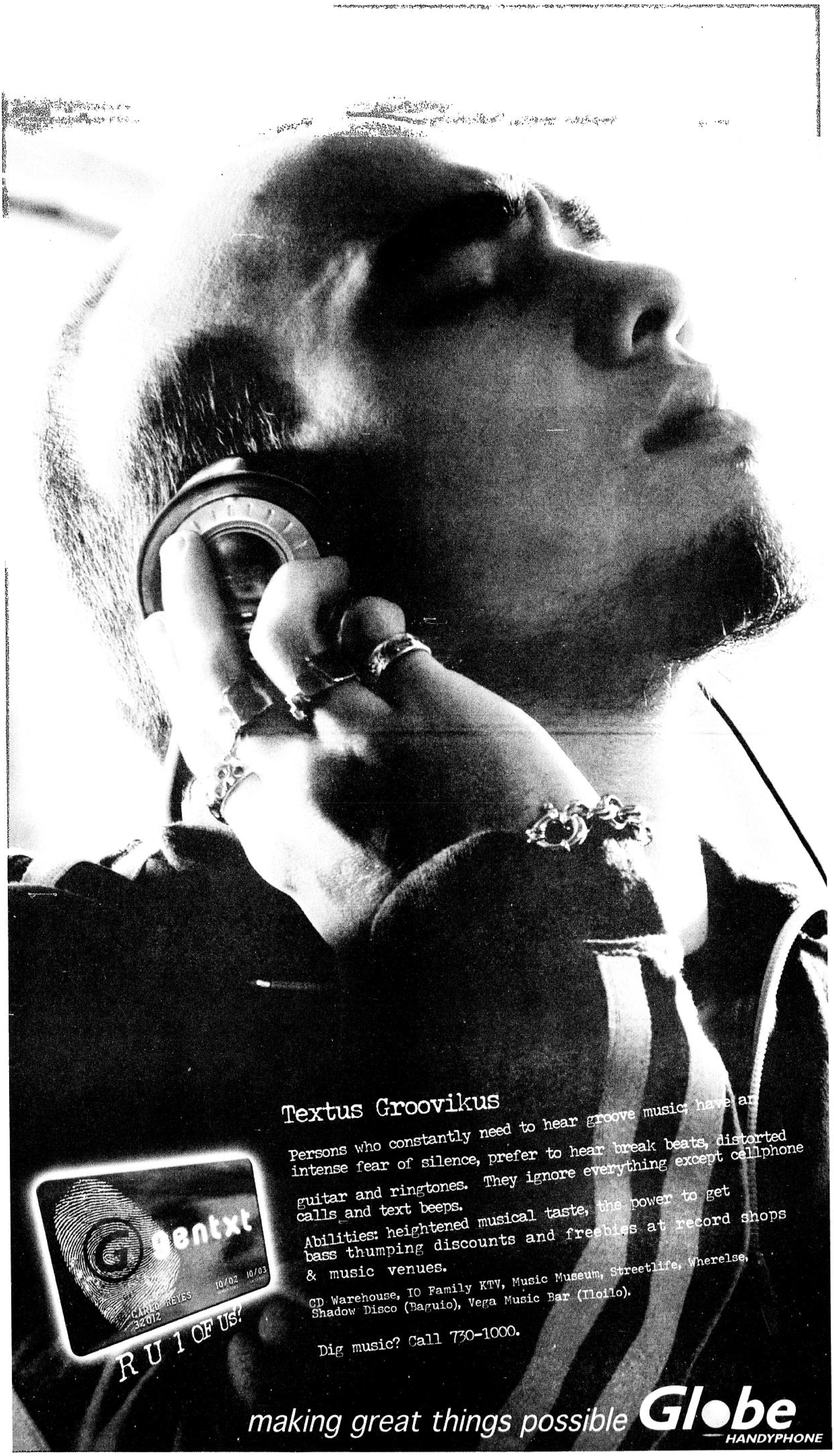

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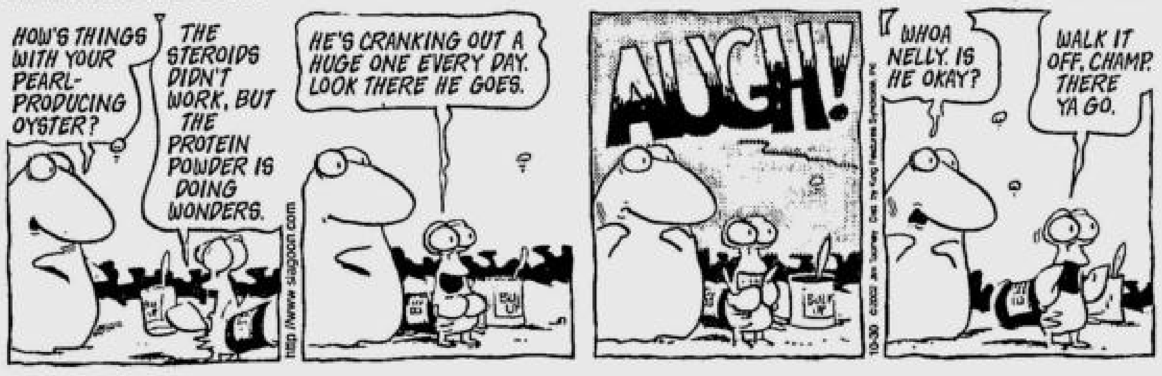
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY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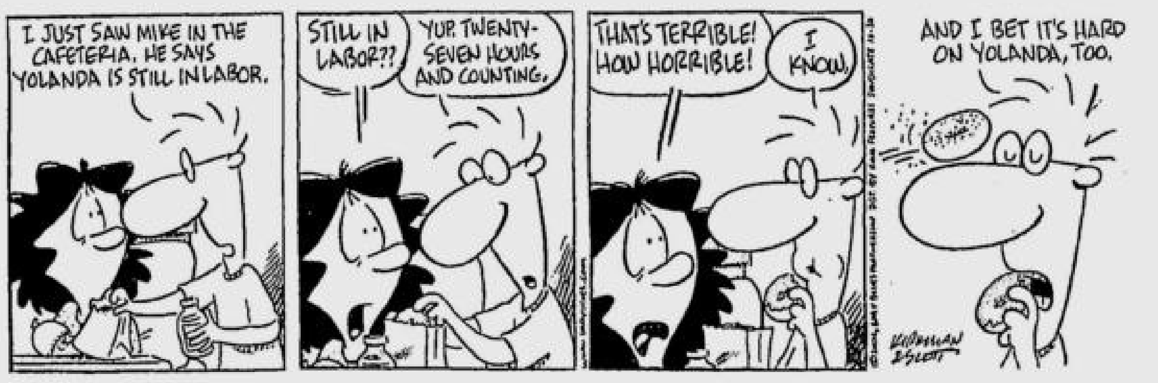
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT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YUP. TWENTY-SEVEN HOURS AND COUNTING.
THAT'S TERRIBLE! HOW HORRIBLE!
I KNOW.
AND I BET IT'S HARD ON YOLANDA, TOO.
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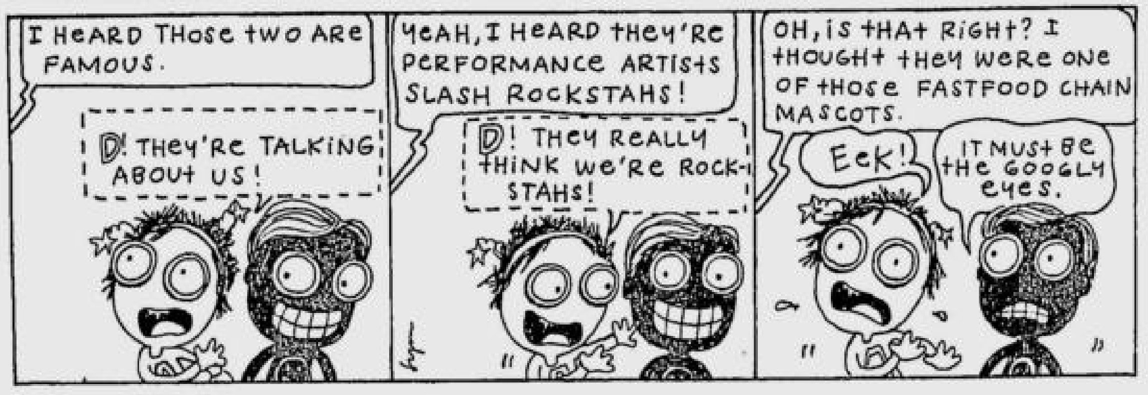
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BYLYRA GARCELLANO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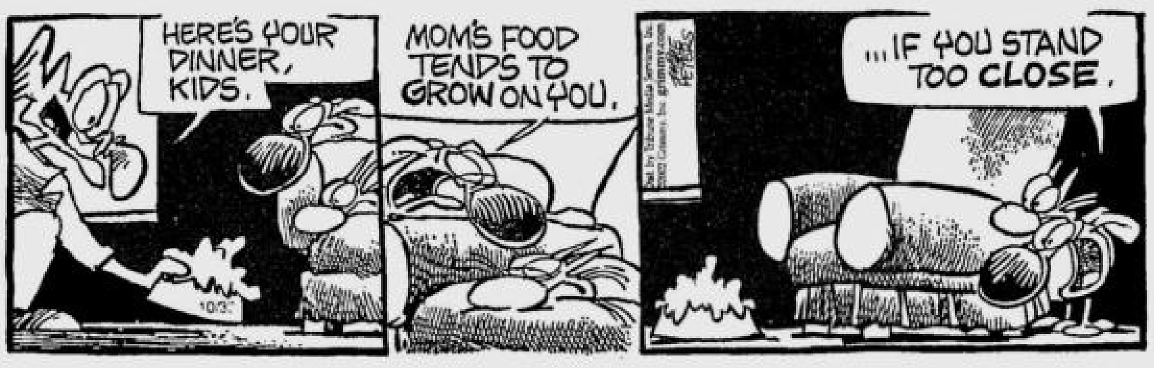
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS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HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Grace Slick, Henry Winkler, Kathleen Cody, Diego Armando Maradona

Happy Birthday: Opportunities will be all around you, but if you don't act fast you may miss out. You have the right idea and the know-how to put your plans into play. Your charm and grace will be hard for anyone to resist, so put it to good use. Your numbers are 9, 17, 25, 27, 31, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can do very well in speculative money matters. Take some time to spend with children. It's important for you to look after your health and well-being. Don't sign documents without proper advice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Home or work will be emotionally draining for you. Steer clear of those who are likely to upset the apple cart. Take time to think things through and regroup.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone you work with may not be totally honest with you. Do a little investigating and expect some surprises. Drastic alterations in your work environment are likely. Look into lucrative but safe investments.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't spend too much on children or entertainment. You may find that situations at work may get blown out of proportion. Don't get involved in gossip or risky money deals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Changes in your living quarters may appear to be alarming at first glance. Don't jump to conclusions. Give things a chance to settle down and you may find that the end result is to your advantage.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stay away from joint financial extravaganzas. Expect problems with deals that appear to be too easy. Don't sign any documents until you have the legal OK.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't start disputes at work. If you disagree with your boss, swallow it. This is not the time to raise controversial issues. Your best efforts will come through family outings and pleasure trips.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can work well with others if you help those who are in lower positions. The work you do will benefit all. Your energy should be directed into meeting your deadline.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Travel and involvement in large groups will bring knowledge. Beware that someone may be out to get revenge. Use your keen sense of perception when interacting.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Limitations with women are likely. Do as much as you can on your own. This is a good time to use discretion where diet and activities are concerned.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You're ready to jump on anyone who gets in your way. New partnerships can be formulated now that you're in a position to set the rules. Be decisive and proceed.

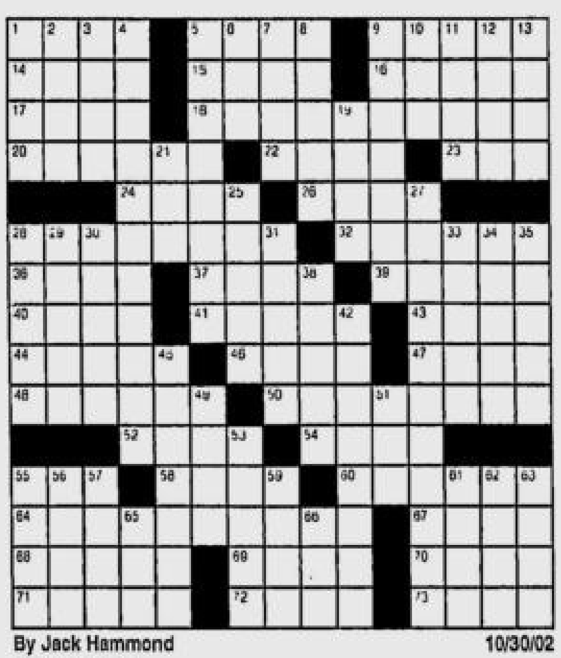
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get to the bottom of things at work and don't count on anything that hasn't been put down in writing. As long as you get good solid advice, you should be able to proceed successfully.

Birthday Baby: You will be eager for adventure and excitement. You will be quick to take advantage of any opportunity that comes your way and therefore should achieve the success you dream about.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Doorway part
5 Nordic rugs
9 Type of tiger or towel
14 Operatic highlight
15 Profane utterance
16 Century plant
17 Foot part
18 Ponta Delgada minerals?
20 Eyed lewdly
22 Olympus honcho
23 Big bang letters?
24 Roomy boats
26 Helmut's three
28 Would-be
32 Simple planetarium
36 Holier-__-thou
37 Fertile soil
39 Stiff bristles
40 Den
41 Water lily
43 Moon goddess
44 Sten and Moffo
46 Stet's opposite
47 Annexes
48 Visualizing
50 Most calm
52 Aswan's river
54 Raced
55 CIA precursor
58 Clinton Cabinet member
60 Join up
64 Northern paradise?
67 East of the Urals
68 Grand-slam man of tennis
69 1996 Tony winner
70 European defense assn.
71 Auguries
72 Fifths of five
73 Woad and anil

DOWN
1 Hoosegow
2 "Rule Britannia" composer
3 Common rodents
4 Desert storm?
5 Highway carcass
6 Carl of the Sox
7 The gamut
8 Cut into small pieces
9 Quarterbacks, at times
10 Past
11 Hair division
12 Tied
13 Remainder
19 New currency
21 Misdo
25 Netlike cap
27 The Old Sod?
28 Map book
29 Alan Ladd film
30 "Common Sense" writer
31 Bill of Microsoft
33 Musical exercise piece
34 Ayn and Sally
35 Leavening agent
38 Slippers
42 Slithering hissers
45 Hidden marksmen
49 Secluded valley
51 Poetic contraction
53 January in Juarez
55 Norway capital
56 Did the crawl
57 Golfer Ballesteros
59 Port of Yemen
61 Brit's indignant comment
62 Web location
63 Artists' mecca
65 Lair
66 Compass dir.



By Jack Hammond
Savannah, GA
10/30/02

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	O	S	A	■	R	U	M	P	■	E	S	S	E	S
O	V	E	R	■	E	S	A	U	■	R	E	T	R	O
Y	A	N	K	S	M	E	T	S	■	A	V	A	I	L
A	L	T	■	E	A	R	T	H	A	■	E	Y	E	D
■	■	■	W	E	D	S	■	■	U	S	N	■	■	■
L	A	H	O	R	E	■	H	I	G	H	T	E	A	S
A	D	O	R	E	■	P	O	D	■	O	H	M	I	C
C	A	R	L	S	■	A	L	L	■	A	G	O	R	A
E	G	A	D	S	■	C	E	E	■	L	A	T	E	R
D	E	S	S	E	R	T	S	■	A	I	M	E	R	S
■	■	■	E	S	E	■	■	F	L	E	E	■	■	■
S	L	U	R	■	M	A	O	R	I	S	■	O	R	B
T	E	P	I	D	■	M	R	O	C	T	O	B	E	R
E	A	T	E	R	■	M	A	N	E	■	S	I	S	I
P	R	O	S	Y	■	O	L	D	S	■	E	T	T	E

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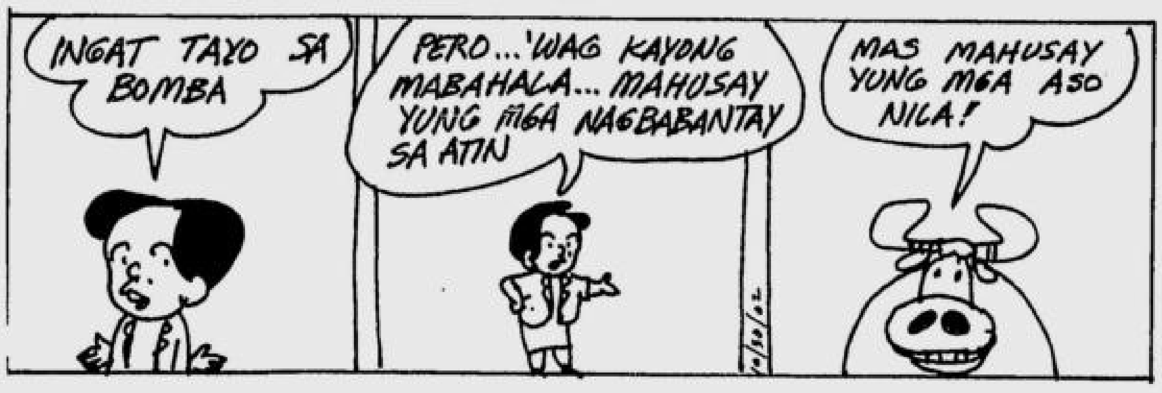
10/30/02

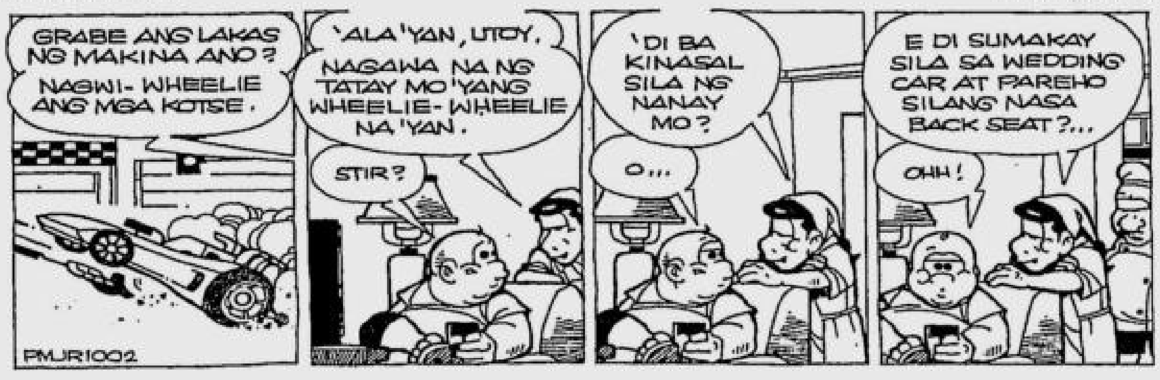
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


INGAT TAYO SA BOMBA
PERO... 'WAG KAYONG MABAHALA... MAHUSAY YUNG MGA NAGBABANTAY SA ATIN
MAS MAHUSAY YUNG MGA ASO NILA!

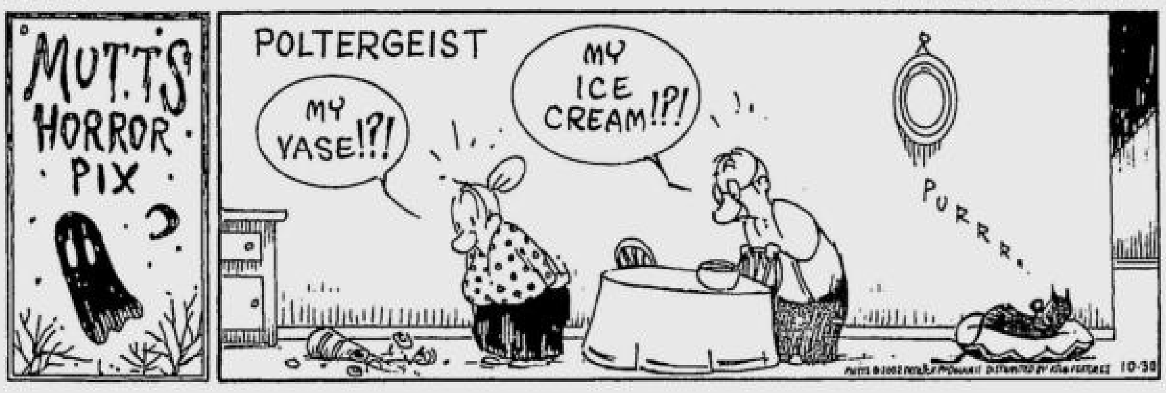
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GRABE ANG LAKAS NG MAKINA ANO?
NAGWI-WHEELIE ANG MGA KOTSE.
'ALA 'YAN, UTOY. NAGAWA NA NG TATAY MO 'YANG WHEELIE-WHEELIE NA 'YAN.
STIR?
'DI BA KINASAL SILA NG NANAY MO?
O...
E DI SUMAKAY SILA SA WEDDING CAR AT PAREHO SILANG NASA BACK SEAT?...
OHH!
PMJR1002

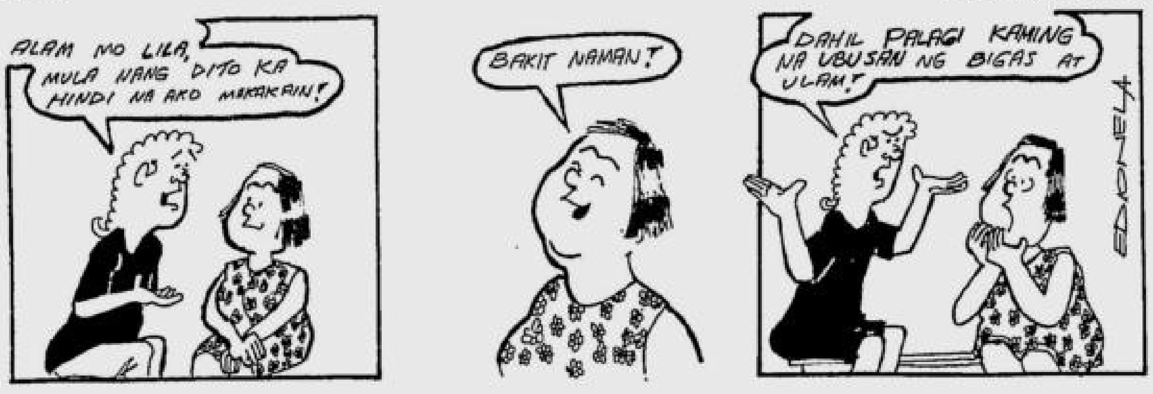
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MUTTS HORROR PIX
POLTERGEIST
MY VASE!?!
MY ICE CREAM!?!
PURRR..
10-30

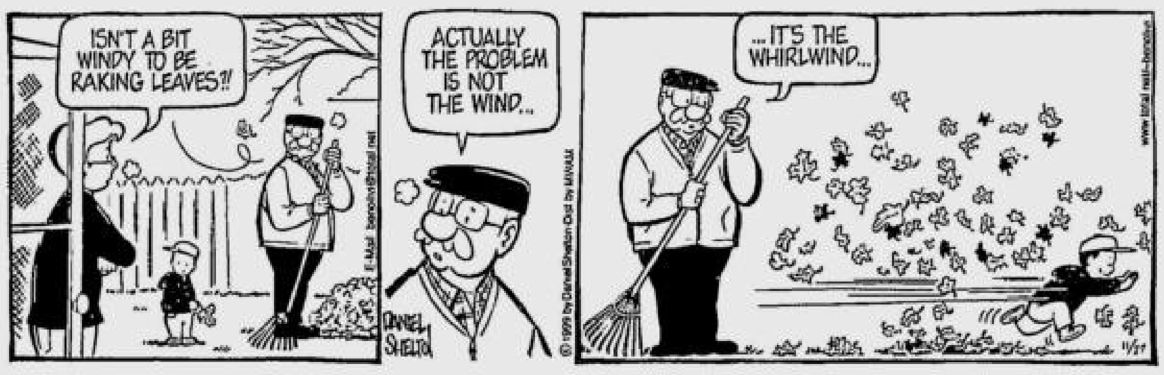
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ALAM MO LILA, MULA NANG DITO KA HINDI NA AKO MAKAKAIN!
BAKIT NAMAN?
DAHIL PALAGI KAMING NA UBUSAN NG BIGAS AT ULAM!
EDIONELA

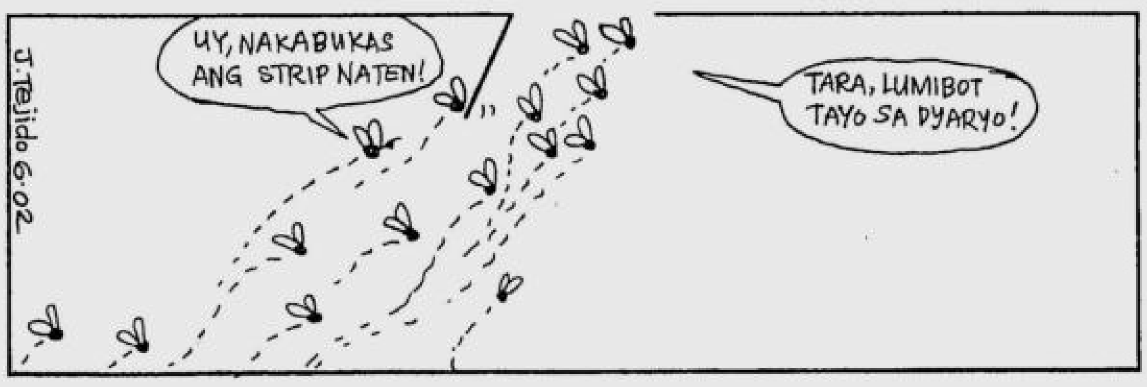
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


ISN'T A BIT WINDY TO BE RAKING LEAVES?!
ACTUALLY THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE WIND...
...IT'S THE WHIRLWIND...
DANIEL SHELTON

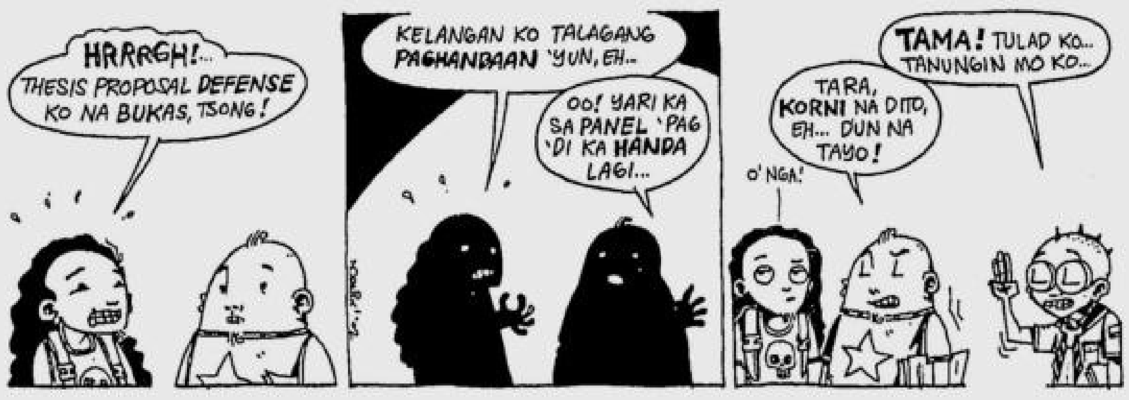
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


UY, NAKABUKAS ANG STRIP NATEN!
TARA, LUMIBOT TAYO SA DYARYO!
J. Tejido 6.02

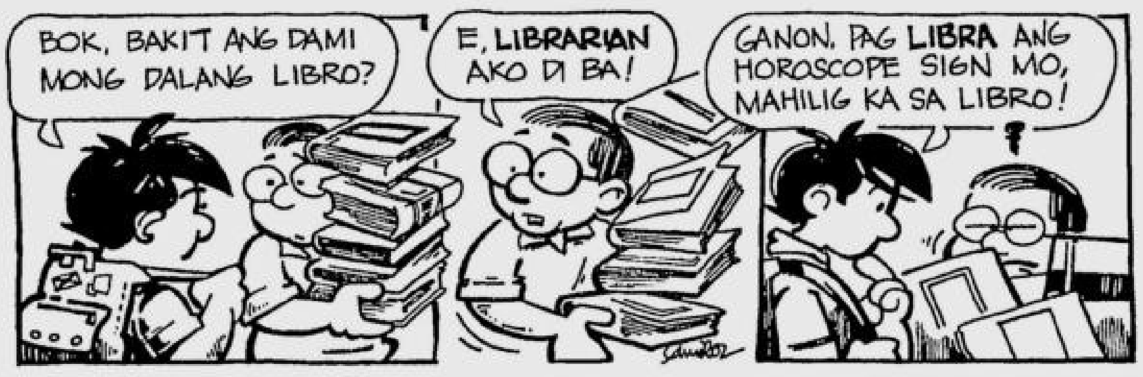
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HRRRGH!... THESIS PROPOSAL DEFENSE KO NA BUKAS, TSONG!
KELANGAN KO TALAGANG PAGHANDAAN 'YUN, EH..
OO! YARI KA SA PANEL 'PAG 'DI KA HANDA LAGI...
TAMA! TULAD KO... TANUNGIN MO KO...
TARA, KORNI NA DITO, EH... DUN NA TAYO!
O' NGA!

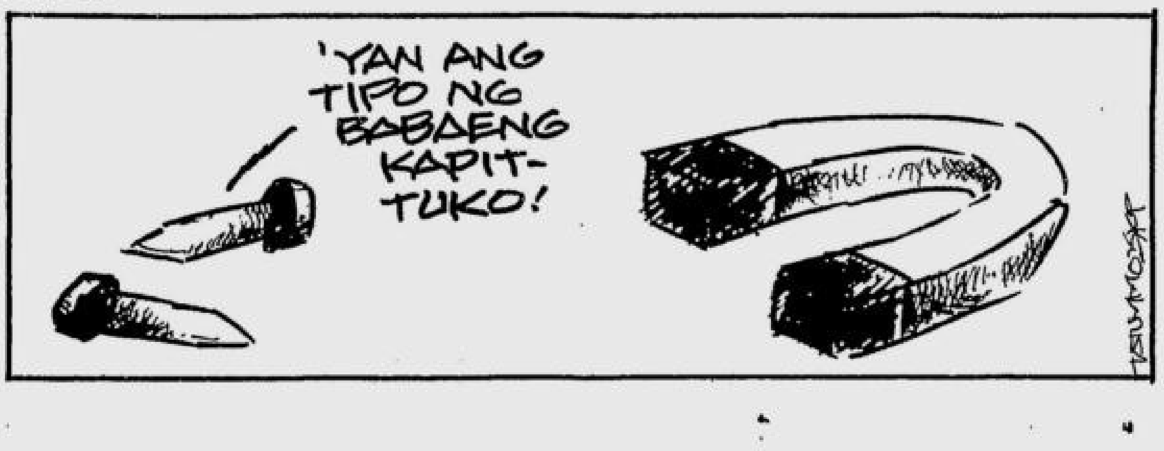
GENG'S GAMES

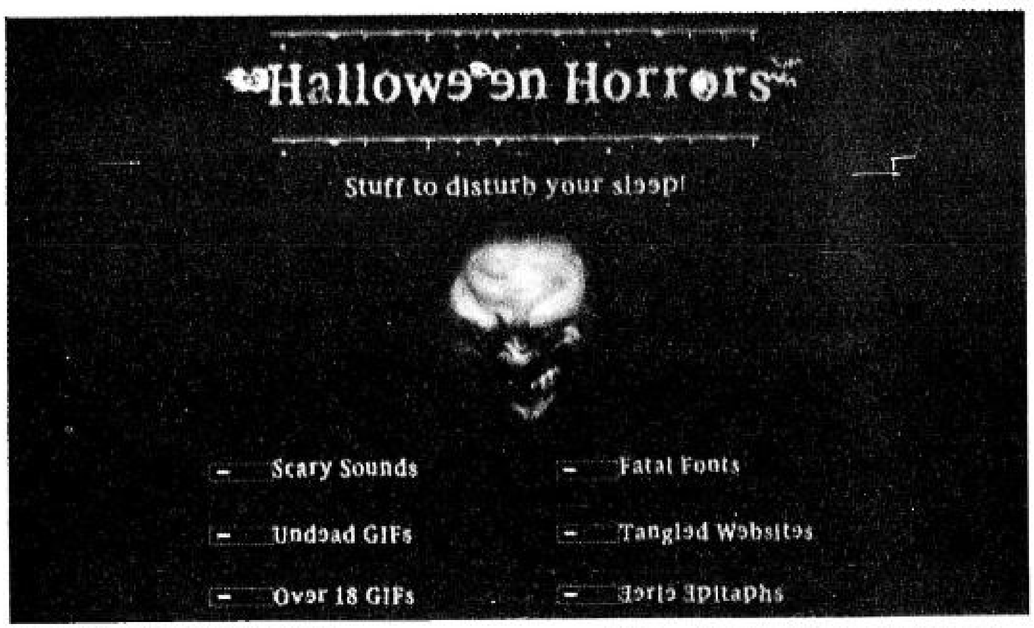
BY AMIEL RUFO


BOK, BAKIT ANG DAMI MONG DALANG LIBRO?
E, LIBRARIAN AKO DI BA!
GANON. PAG LIBRA ANG HOROSCOPE SIGN MO, MAHILIG KA SA LIBRO!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'YAN ANG TIPO NG BABAENG KAPIT-TUKO!



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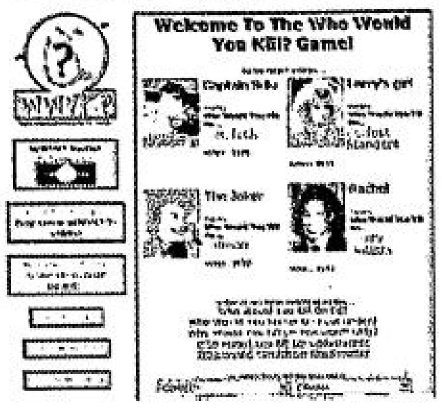
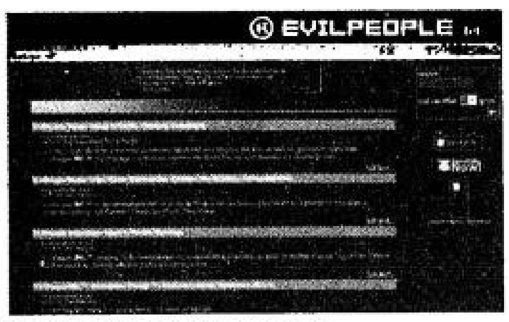


Welcome To The Who Would You Kill? Game!

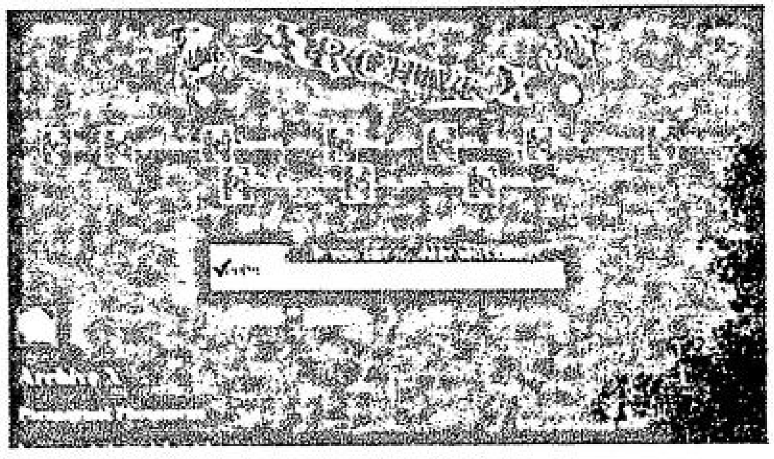
WWYK?
Captain
Larry's girl
The Joker
Rachel

From page C2



EVILPEOPLE

www.gaijin.com/EvilPeople/



www.wirenot.net/X/

the horrors—from literature to music and the movies. And we're not just talking popular Hollywood here. There are also takes on music from the yesteryears, strange and bizarre movies from other countries, and a collection of interviews and biographies of prominent horror figures. Plus, a monthly synopsis of the most current horror book. Warning, though—web links in the music category don't always work.

For questions on witches and their lifestyle, stop pestering your suspicious-looking neighbor. The site **www.cog.org/wicca/faq.html** is devoted to witchcraft. Finally, for tips on how to have fun on that special night, **www.theholiday spot.com/halloween** has cool ideas on how to throw a party, devise a costume and design your pumpkin lantern. It also has Halloween jokes and an online trick-or-treat. Mostly kids stuff.

E-mail the author at luifox@corporatedirtbag.com

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Visit the Halloween Crossroad Nights at GSC from October 30 to 31 at 6pm onwards. Enjoy a Halloween treat na walang halong trick.

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER

What's your favorite scary movie?

From page C1

tic! Just the prelude to the music is enough to make me hide behind the sleeve of whoever's watching!—**Cheryl Tiu, 18, AdMU**

"The Others," because the movie gave viewers a different kind of twist, hence a surprise ending!—**Arian Gallegos, 16, DLSU-CSB**

"Frailty." It was really creepy.—**Coreen Copuyoc, 20, AdMU**

"Candyman"! The blood, the gore, the voice... how sweet!—**Joem Segovia, DLSU**

"The Sixth Sense," because most of the scenes made me jump from my seat and I don't usually get scared!—**Em Mozo, 18, AdMU**

My favorite scary movie is "The Haunting," even though it's not that scary. I really like its special effects and the story itself. I also like it because it features Catherine Zeta-Jones, my favorite actress.—**Jowen, 15, AdU**

"Halloween Resurrection," because it's cool and scary.—**Dexter, 16, Miriam College**

Wala talaga, I avoid watching them.—**Pauline Lim, 18, AdMU**

"The Exorcist" or "The Sixth Sense"—I got goose bumps while watching! *Napakapit ako sa* edge of my seat.—**Bernie, Mapua**

"Amityville."—**JP Francisco, 21, AdMU**

"Urban Legends." *Nakakagulat eh!*—**Anj, 14**

"Tales from the Crypt: Demon Knight." Not too scary, but exciting. And it played around with biblical legends, so it's fresh.—**Asterio Gutierrez, 20, AdMU**

"Amadeus," "The Omen" and "Tatarin."—**Maria Luisita, 19, UA&P**

"Amityville"—I think that was the title. It's an old-school film about a family living in a haunted house and when they left for their new house, they were followed *pa*! Creepy! I saw it when I was just a kid but it still scares the hell out of me!—**Carms, 19, UST-CFAD**

"The Sixth Sense" and "Poltergeist."—**Tetch, 20, AdMU**

"The Others." I've watched it 10 times already and I still get scared. This movie gave the haunted house scenario a different twist and I love the unpredictable ending.—**Mel, 19**

"The Exorcist" and "Stigmata."—**Shasha Fernandez, 19, UST**

"The Shining," because Jack Nicholson rules—you don't get [any] scarier than him.—**Joe, 20, AdMU**

"Child's Play."—**Ping Mendoza, 16, LSGH**

"The Others." The "grandma" scene was really creepy.—**Dot Tioleco, 20, AdMU**

"The Sixth Sense." It had good cinematography, good script... It was the mere suspense of anticipating what comes next that scared its viewers, and not by special effects as what other horror movies offer.—**rednucleus, 23**

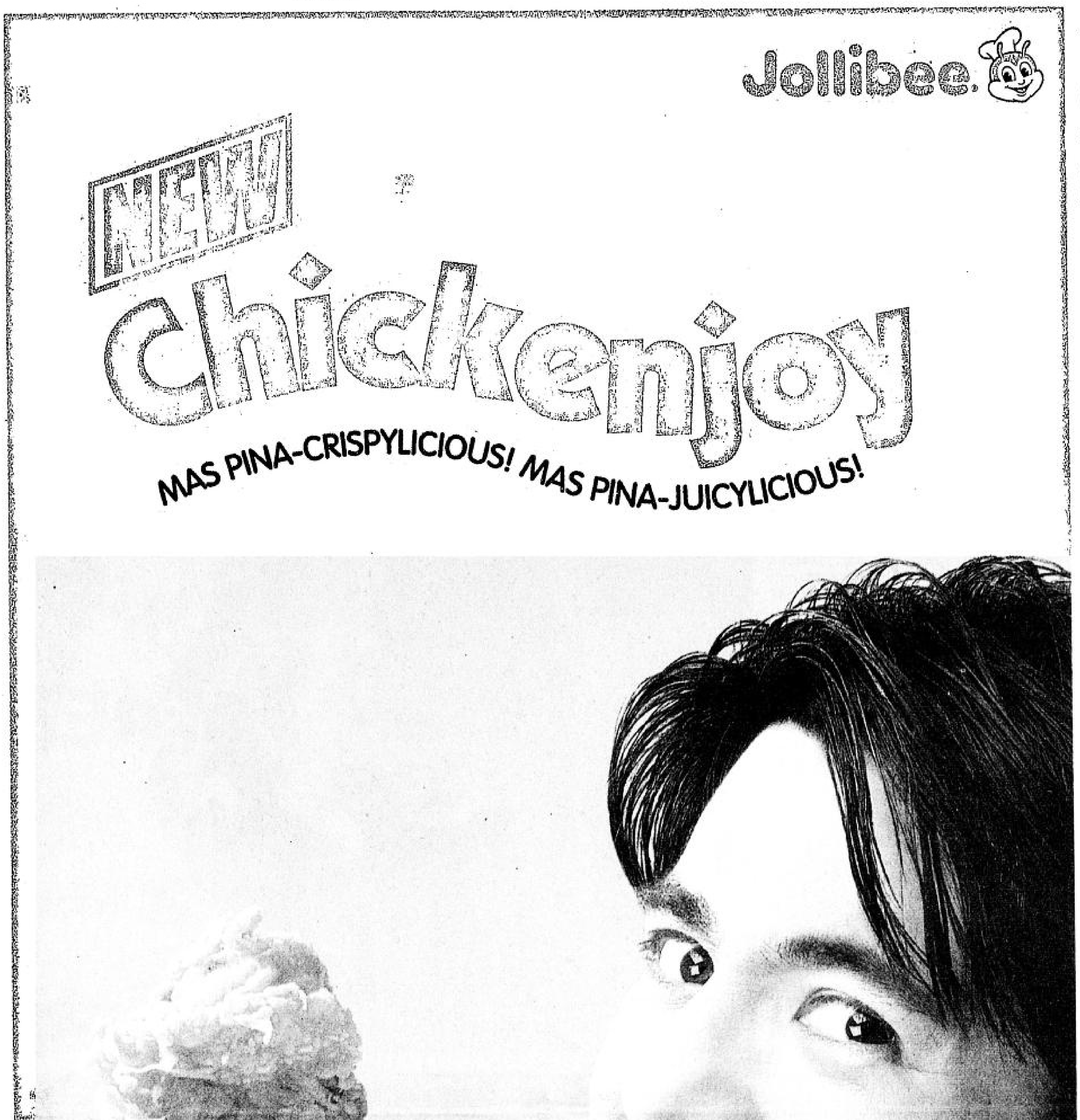
"Shadow of the Vampire." Willem Dafoe was splendidly creepy as a vampire playing an actor playing a vampire.—**Jon Tolentino, 20, AdMU**

"The Exorcist," because it gave me the creeps, and it's the only movie that made the hair at the back of my neck literally stand on end! —**Kim Lim, 19, AdMU**

"The Sixth Sense." –**Wena, 19, AdMU**

"Aswang" or "Impaktita." It may sound corny, but the thought that its setting was in the Philippines terrifies me... —**Iggy I. Mozo, 20, UST**

"The Sixth Sense," frightening yet cerebral, with a distinct tender touch. Heartstopping and heartwarming all at once.—**Anton Sevilla, 18, AdMU**



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LIFESTYLE

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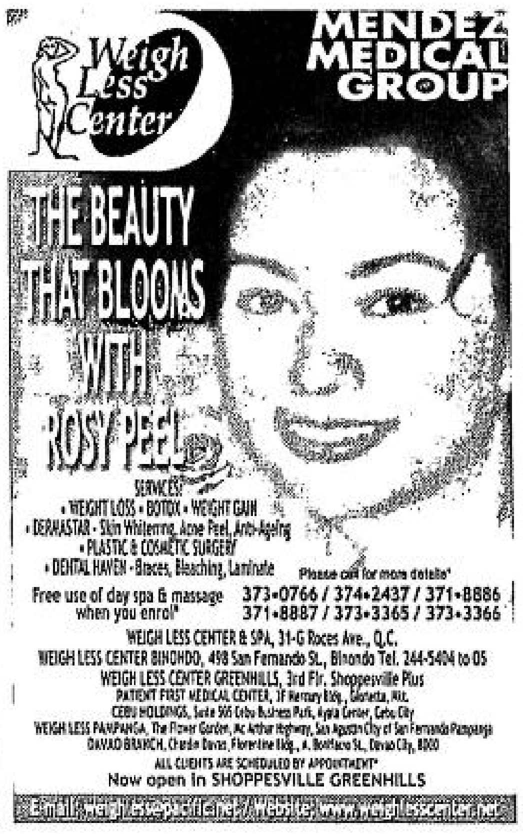
The Real Stiffen King

STORY ON PAGE D2

Reggae to the Rhythm
at The Megastrip
Oct. 30 8:30pm
Widouji
SM MEGAMALL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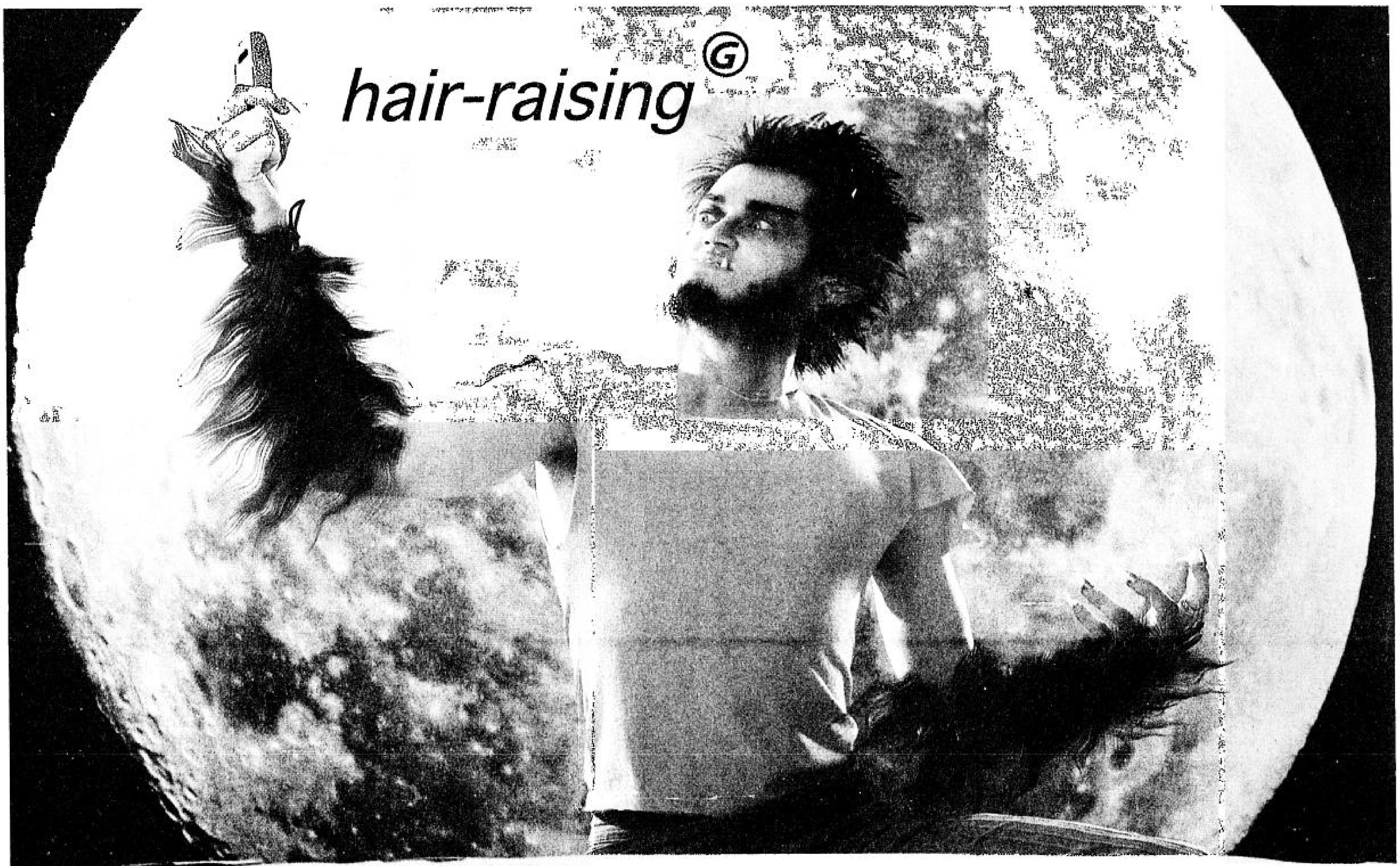
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happy halloween
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hocus pocus
peek-a-boo
What !?!
just droppin
trick or treat!
Fangs! Me!
Ur Mine!
You Ha!
Best Witches to you!
TOONS
creepy crawlie
frankenstein
halloween
HALLOWEEN
halloween
meow
boo!
gorgeous

RINGTONES

SONG TITLE	KEYWORD	ARTIST
GHOSTBUSTERS THEME	[illegible]	Ray Parker Jr.
THE ADDAMS FAMILY	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FUNERAL MARCH OF A MARIONETTE	[illegible]	[illegible]
TUBULAR BELLS	[illegible]	[illegible]
THEME FROM POLTERGEIST	[illegible]	[illegible]
THEME FROM TWILIGHT ZONE	[illegible]	[illegible]
ABSOLUTELY	[illegible]	Nine Days
OOPS	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PLAY THAT FUNKY MUSIC	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SMOOTH CRIMINAL	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SPIDERMAN THEME	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HEY ROCK N ROLL	[illegible]	[illegible]
JUST AN ILLUSION	[illegible]	[illegible]

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[illegible]

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The Real Stiffen King

If you can deal with emotions, have a strong personality and willing to get a pay cut, embalming might be the job for you

By Raya Lopez Martin
2bU! Correspondent

HARD times call for a tough man. Sharkie Rodriguez shares his story.

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

THE NIGHT before I went to see the young embalmer, I couldn't sleep. I had black-and-white images of a morgue in mind. There were stretchers, autopsy tables and dead bodies. Dead bodies. They were very stiff.

I remembered Ewan McGregor on "Nightwatch" as an anxious watchman in a morgue; Mike Myers (as the murderer) on "Halloween 2" stalking hospital interns and patient Jamie Lee Curtis. I love horror movies... but I hate dead bodies, especially those that come alive.

Then morning came and I found myself in Arlington Memorial Chapel in Pasig. It was a quiet place at 10 a.m. All the rooms were booked, and as I walked around, people looked at me with sympathy, perhaps thinking that I, too, was recently bereaved.

I was actually there to talk to Sharkie Rodriguez, 24, one of the funeral house's embalmers—the man in charge of cleaning up and beautifying the dead for their last stint on earth.

A 'calling'

Sharkie didn't just accidentally end up in this job. At a young age, he was always interested in the business of the dead. Growing up in Cavite, he says his life revolved around three social events: christenings, weddings and funerals.

He was gifted, in a way. He had a gut feel of which casket would fit which body, or where best to place chandeliers in order to give perfect lighting to a body on display.

Eventually, whenever there was a death, Sharkie was the one relatives and family would call on, at first just to ask him for ideas or assistance during the wake.

"*Malimit akong mag-stay sa* funeral parlors, *hanggang sa naging kakilala ko na yung mga sepulturero sa* town *namin,*" he says.

Sharkie graduated with a degree in respiratory therapy, but that's not how he got into this job, though he says "*malaking tulong sa akin yung* degree."

His first job, as a research assistant in a Department of Health project, didn't last long. And since he knew from childhood that he wanted to work in a funeral house, he thought of training as a mortician for two years.

After that, he was ready to strike on his own. His first job as a mortician was very hectic. "*Hindi ka pa nakakapagbihis, nakapila na*"—the cadavers, he means. Still, he feels lucky not having worked during the "peak hours" shift—from 2-11 p.m.

He says his breaks for meals are regular—and normal "*basta hindi ka sa morgue kakain.*"

Respectable work

For all its worth, Sharkie says he likes it in the funeral parlor, where people recognize—and respect—his work.

"*Ang* responsibility *ng* embalmer *ay magpre-preserve ka ng* body, *di*-disinfect *mo, kasama na rin ang* cosmetics," he explains. Once, an impressed client asked him to retouch the dead's makeup every night. Tips could reach as much as P2,000 per body.

"*Mas gusto ko dito kaysa sa ospital.* [*Doon*] *magdu-duty ka, lahat gagawin mo kaya lang yung* family [*nung* patient] *hindi nila naa*-appreciate *yung gawa mo.*" In a funeral house, "*hindi matapos-tapos yung* 'thank you' *nila.*"

There are risks involved, though. Once, "*natalsikan ako ng dugo sa mata.*" He also says something about formalin being cancer-causing.

In another unfortunate incident, a casket lid fell on his feet—all 30 kg of it! Even the Y2K bug got him in a panic.

"Midnight, New Year's Eve, *di ba? Hindi* compliant *yung mga* computers... *biglang nag*-brownout, *mag-isa lang akong* embalmer *at tatlo yung* bodies. *Hindi ako makatakbo kasi naka*-open *yung* machine. After *ilang* seconds, *saka ko na*-realize *mag-isa lang ako. Pinatay ko yung* machine *saka tumakbo sa labas.*"

There can also be complaints from families whose dead met violent accidents—sometimes an embalmer can only do so much to make the bodies look as healthy as they did when they were alive.

Famous clients

The greatest perk in his job, says Sharkie, is the chance to work on somebody famous. "*Doon ka lang makakakuha ng* compliments."

Among his "clients": Eddie Rodriguez, Mang Temy of "Iskul Bukol" and Ricky Belmonte.

A dead body, says Sharkie, is subject to a mortician's personal touch. He says with pride: "*Malalaman mong sa akin kapag maraming* incisions."

He takes time to carefully work on arteries and veins so parts of the body wouldn't swell. In choosing the cosmetics, he prefers dark colors.

"*Ang isip kasi natin kapag maputi, maganda... eh, hindi,*" he says. Sharkie wants the bodies to look as natural as possible.

Sharkie then led me to another room, where caskets of various styles and prizes were on display. There's York Sterling, the same model used by Rico Yan. There's the Silver Rose, also manufactured by York, where Maria Teresa Carlson was laid down to rest. These "designer" metal caskets from the US are in the P700,000 price range.

There are also 18-cm-long caskets for infants; urns that look like teapots. "*Minsan kasi pinaghahatian ng pamilya,*" Sharkie explains, referring to the ashes.

Life outside work

Being a mortician sounds intriguing but, Sharkie warns, "*'wag silang mag*-expect *ng malaking* salary." Embalming also deals with a lot of emotions, and having a stable personality would make the job easier.

What does Sharkie do when not at work? He says he likes reading about funerary-related books and articles. He is also an avid fan of a National Geographic series called "Five Weddings and a Couple of Funerals."

He isn't much of a moviegoer, but he likes to listen to pop music just like any other person. He likes it "solemn, *hindi maingay.*" Perhaps, just like those bodies.

Of course, I had to ask him a final question: What in the world can make him freeze in terror if 3-week-old cadavers full of maggots don't do the trick?

He says try putting him in a room full of snakes. Or in a room with nothing in it. "*Mas natatakot ako* sa empty spaces... sa mga chapels. *Nai*-imagine *ko na may tao.*"

E-mail the author at littlebrownindie@hotmail.com

THANKS TO JOMAR DOMINGO OF ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL, QC

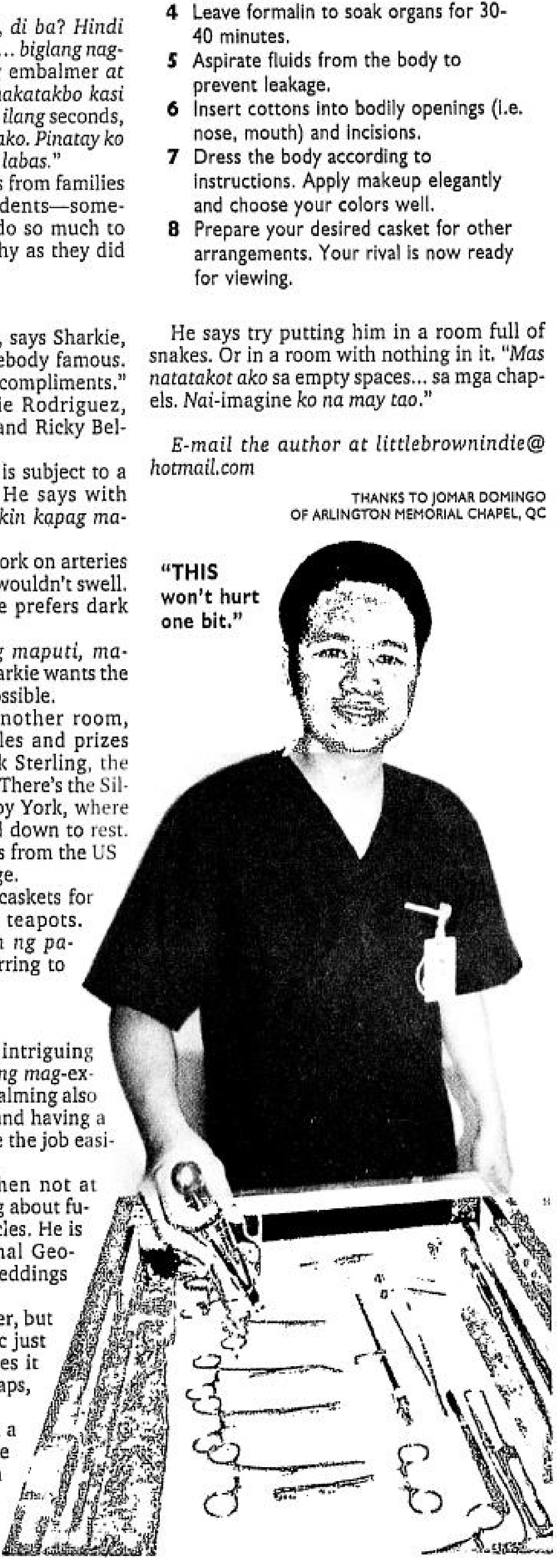
A mortifying tale

After more than an hour of grueling presentation, embalming didn't seem to be a gory job. Except for some unusual lumps on the body, guts don't really spill out from the cadaver. Small incisions are made to insert a thingamajig that sucks jammed blood (or what looks like chopped liver) from the dead. The body is chillingly solid and stiff. Most of the veins show (like after a workout from the gym) and I was expecting the dead guy to say hello to me any moment then. The stomach becomes bizarrely bloated while organs are soaked in formalin. The back, including the butt, becomes flat as an ironing board. And the body slides off easily from one stretcher to another... with just one push.

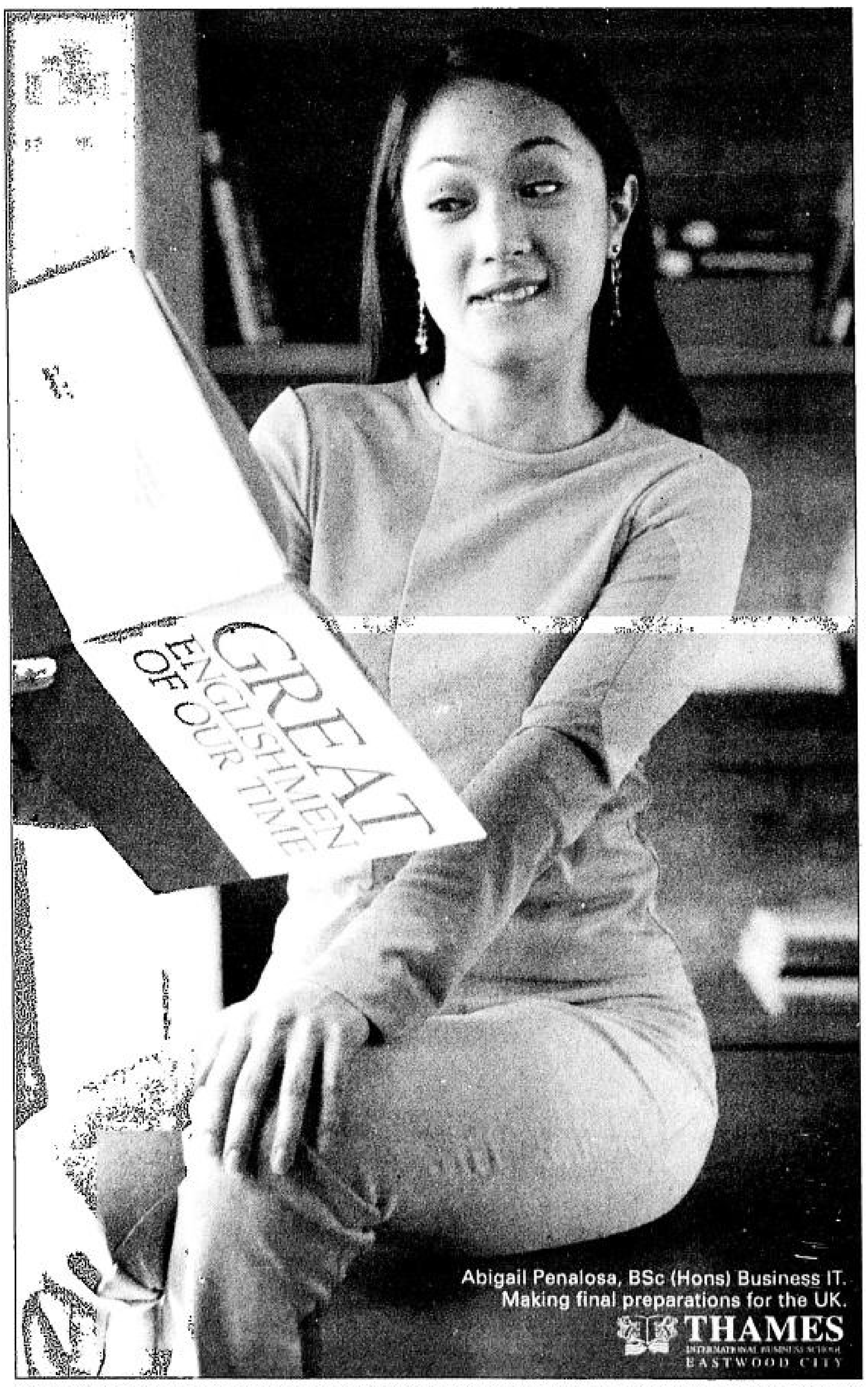
Do-it-yourself embalming

Here's a step-to-step guide to stiffening your enemies:

1 Take note of some information about the deceased. (Consider the cause of death. According to Philippine law, some diseases, such as AIDS or hepatitis, prohibit the deceased to be viewed in public and are advised to be cremated.) Also, choose a hand position for the dead. It could be straight, placed at the sides of the body or with palms open, or religious, a praying form (sometimes clasping a religious article).
2 Deliver the body to the preparing room and rinse it with liquid soap and disinfectant.
3 Put tubes into the body to drain blood and inject diluted formalin simultaneously.
4 Leave formalin to soak organs for 30-40 minutes.
5 Aspirate fluids from the body to prevent leakage.
6 Insert cottons into bodily openings (i.e. nose, mouth) and incisions.
7 Dress the body according to instructions. Apply makeup elegantly and choose your colors well.
8 Prepare your desired casket for other arrangements. Your rival is now ready for viewing.



"THIS won't hurt one bit."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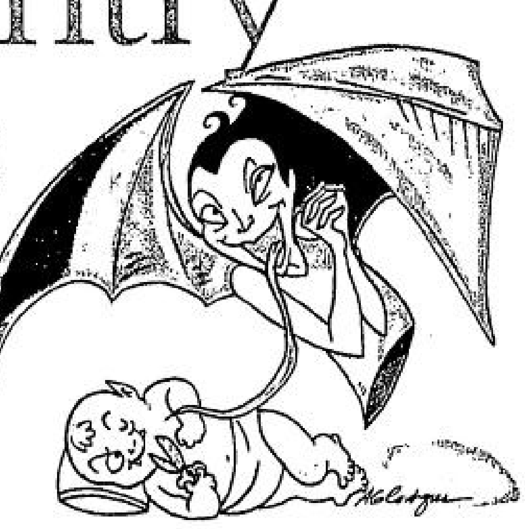
The country spirits



ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

GROWING up in the Philippines wouldn't be complete without getting scared out of your wits by crafty *yayas*. You won't eat your vegetables? Be careful, the *aswang* or *manananggal* will hunt you down. You won't sleep now? The *kapre* will knock on your window tonight.

And who hasn't heard of Balete Drive's "white lady"? Or engaged in playground talk about how "our school used to be a hospital and then a cemetery" as a means to determine which school kicks more ass on the supernatural scale? .

2bU! rounds up some of our country's famed ghosts and monsters this Halloween. Forget vampires and the banshees… we've got a whole bunch of our own "World's Scariest Ghosts" inductees!

'Manananggal'

Meet the *manananggal*, a woman whose body splits in half at night. It is believed that her upper body flies away into the night to devour little children, while the lower part stays still on the ground. The first *manananggal* sighting was supposedly in the province of Capiz, by sailors who were taken in for the night by three maidens—who later turn out to be, uhm, women in flight.

'Sigbin'

The *sigbin* is a dog-like animal with huge ears. Folks from Camiguin say the hind legs of this animal are longer, and raised slightly higher, than its forelegs. People in Gingoog City people believe that the *sigbin* drinks blood to survive, and apparently loves babies—for dinner. It is also believed that this creature can fly—not with its ears but with its fur. Those in Samar say charmers keep the *sigbin* as a pet, and that one can actually ride on it.

'Tiyanak'

Never pick up a crying baby in the forest—it could turn out to be a demon. The *tiyanak* is a "baby devil" that will eventually devour the entire family that adopts it. Others also believe that *tiyanak* is the spawn of a devil and a human.

'Dwende'

Anthills house not only ants, but dwarves, or *dwendes*, as well. You get extreme bad luck if you make the mistake of stepping on their homes. And that's why you have to say these four magic words when venturing into a dark, woody area: "*Tabi-tabi po, nuno* (Excuse me, dwarf)."

Some people believe *dwendes* can help out with household work, such as cleaning and guarding property. Ilocanos believe in a dwarf named Tirtiris—he has a golden tooth and likes to add to the rice bin of people he likes. Lampong, on the other hand, prefers to guard animals and play pranks on hunters. Warning: *dwendes* supposedly don't like it when you sweep the grounds near an anthill, as dust gets in their eyes.

'Tama'

The Manobos believe the *tama* is an evil giant who loves to make trouble. He confuses travelers with ruses such as calling their name and playing musical sounds to get them off the trail and venture into his path—where he eats them alive.

The *tama* lives in untouched jungles, and Manobos claim to have seen his footprints. They also believe in a harmless giant named Apila. He is said to often leave his forest home to go wrestling with another harmless giant named Mandayangan.

'Kapre'

Everyone has heard about him—this giant man with a bushy face that resides in huge trees or abandoned houses, and is very much similar to your average bum with many vices—he smokes, drinks, curses and loves gambling.

Some believe he is usually up to mischief at night, playing tricks on wary travelers and residents. A story from Misamis Oriental claims the *kapre* once took the form of a child to fool a nursing mother.

THE COUNTRY/ p.D5

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Things looking up

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Tales from the campus

By Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent

IN A COUNTRY where superstition and belief in the supernatural still run high, it is not surprising that ghost stories continue to abound, even if some are downright dubious. The tales often involve mirrors and suicide victims and leave listeners wondering if they are true. School campuses have their share of ghost stories and here are some of them:

Headless

A story that has long circulated in the University of the Philippines' Diliman campus is about a coed who, one evening, got into the last UP-Ikot trip of the day.

The girl, who was on her way to one of the women's dormitories, was the only passenger. To her surprise, the driver changed his route after she got into the jeepney, taking a longer way. The girl pleaded, "*Manong, dun po ako sa* dorm," but was ignored. The vehicle eventually returned to the usual *ikot* route.

As the girl got off in front of her dormitory, the driver told her, "*Ineng, pag-uwi mo, hubarin mo agad iyang damit mo. Kung puwede, sunugin mo. Iniba ko yung daan para makaiwas sa disgrasya. Kanina kasi, nung pagtingin ko sa salamin, wala kang ulo.*"

Pool of blood

Legend has it that a chapel inside De La Salle University's LS Building is closed on the death anniversary of priests murdered by Japanese soldiers in World War II. It is said that on that day, chapel's floor is unexplainably drenched in blood, looking the way it must have been when the group of priests were killed.

Among the things students know by heart about their schools are their own campuses ghost stories

Peeping Tom-asa

In one of the women's comfort rooms at the University of Santo Tomas' Education Building, a girl heard some strange noises. She found this weird since it was late and she was certain she was alone. When she looked up, she saw a woman looking down on her. Horrified, she tried to avoid the woman's gaze. But as she moved her head, the girl saw that the woman had no feet.

Left hanging

A male student was in a second-floor comfort room of UP Diliman's Vinzons Hall when he felt something soft hit his head. When he looked up, a girl was hanging from the ceiling and looking straight at him.

Floating priest

One night, a girl walked down the grand staircase of UST's main building at a very late hour feeling pretty nervous. As she walked down, she was relieved to see that a priest was walking behind her.

She started talking to him but the priest was silent and simply looked at her blankly. As they reached the lobby, the girl saw the friend she was supposed to meet. To the girl's surprise, her friend ran up to her, took her arm and dragged her to the exit. Just as she was about to scold her friend for being rude, she was told, "*Hindi mo ba nakita? Yung kausap mo lumulutang.*"

BEST ENGLIS JOKES EVER WRITTEN

John Pacific Castro, BA Business Management.
Making final preparations for the UK.
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Halloween's not all fun and games

By Ivy S. Papa
2bUI Correspondent

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

HALLOWEEN, one of the oldest holidays in the world, is now fast becoming popular outside the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom probably because of its fun and fanciful traditions.

The evening before All Saints' Day (also called Hallowmas), Halloween, Hallows' Eve, or Holy Eve traces its history back to the ancient Celtic religion that celebrates Samhain (pronounced something like *sah-ween*), the final harvest of the growing season, which also marked the Celtic New Year. The Celts believed that Samhain was a time of supreme demonic jubilation because the division between the two worlds was very thin and ghosts were free to wander with the living.

Wicca and other neo-pagan religions still mark this occasion. Catholics prefer to mark All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) and All Souls' Day (Nov. 2) rather than Halloween on Oct. 31. Some Protestants celebrate Reformation Day on Oct. 31.

Different countries have their own ways of marking Halloween that are peculiar to their cultures. In the Philippines, where Araw ng mga Patay coincides with the semester break, time and importance are given to the observance of the holiday. Filipinos actually remember their dead on Nov. 1, All Saints' Day, instead of All Souls' Day. Whole clans go to congested cemeteries and suffer immense discomfort. Some people even spend Oct. 31 in cemeteries cleaning and repainting tombs.

In the provinces, people practice *pangangaluluwa* on Halloween. Some men go from house to house, singing (part of a popular song says: "*kaluluwa kaming tambing, sa purgatoryo nanggaling*"). Sometimes the homeowners invite them to the house and feed them. Old Filipino movies show that occasionally, the singers sneak to the *silong* to steal chickens.

Different countries have their own ways of marking this holiday that are peculiar to their cultures

From other parts of the world Halloween traditions include:

American tradition

In the US and Canada, shop owners love this holiday, which is second only to Christmas in sales. Orange and black are also the colors of this season. Pumpkins are carved into jack o'lanterns, the ancient symbols of a lost soul. The custom came from the Irish, who used turnips and beets before they migrated to the US.

Children in costumes go trick-or-treating for candy. The naughtier ones may take advantage of the occasion to trash houses using toilet paper, shaving cream or rotten eggs. Usual activities in a Halloween party would be bobbing for apples, fortune-telling (the old lemon juice on paper trick) and nut-cracking, which were originally games of divination concerning marriage.

Some homes still observe the "Dumb Supper," an eerie Hallowmas meal. Nobody talks during dinner so as not to invite the spirits to come to the table. Christian families and churches have deviated from these Halloween practices and have instead Harvest festivals that include thanksgiving services. Family members bring baskets of fruits and vegetables to share or distribute to the needy.

British way

In Great Britain, the practices are similar to the Americans'. The British bob for apples and play snapdragon where children snatch flaming raisins from a metal dish and make wishes. Young girls hold a "magic mirror" to see the face of their true love.

Irish tradition

In Ireland, people hew closer to ancient traditions. The Irish have Colcannon for dinner, a meal of boiled potato, curly kale (a cabbage) and raw onions. Clean coins are wrapped in wax paper and placed in the potatoes for children to find and keep. A fruit bread called the Barnbrack Cake is baked. It yields a piece of rag, a coin, or a ring, with obvious significance. An ivy leaf is left overnight in a cup of water. The spots it develops by morning supposedly will suggest the state of a person's health for the next 12 months. Another tradition is the Halloween bonfire, which originated from the animal and sometimes human "bone fires" of the Druids, an ancient sect. Dropping a length of one's hair into the embers is supposed to produce dreams about a person's future spouse.

Doing as the Irish

The Scots, sharing the same Gaelic heritage as the Irish, observe similar practices. Robert Burns' "Hallowe'en" gives a vivid account of a Scottish Halloween.

Flowers for the dead

The French honor La Toussaint (All Saints' Day) by going to the cemeteries to spruce up the graves of their loved ones with candles and flowers. Sometimes, they hold a Mass and offer prayers. French Polynesia and French sections of Louisiana in the US observe the same tradition.

Mass for the dead

In Spain, the Catholic Church celebrates a Mass in honor of all the saints on Nov. 1. As in France and the Philippines, people go the cemetery to put flowers and candles on the tombs of their departed on Nov. 2, El Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead). Aside from the traditional rituals, the day is marked by a traditional dessert: *los huesos de santo* or "bones of the saint," which is made of egg whites and sugar.

Three-day celebration

In Latin America, particularly in México, El Día de los Muertos is commemorated with a three-day celebration that begins on Halloween night. Latin Americans believe that the dead return to their earthly homes and the living construct an altar for them, decorating it with an offering of candy, flowers, photographs, portions of the deceased's favorite foods and drinks, and fresh water.

They also leave a wash basin and towel so the spirits could clean up before enjoying the feast. Candles and incense are lit to help the deceased find the way home. Graves are cleaned and adorned with wreaths or paper streamers.

On the day itself, relatives have a picnic at their departed's gravesite to reminisce. The festive day features parades, tequila and even a mariachi band. *Cempasuchil* (lion's paw) is abloom and stores sell cutely grotesque sweets. In Guatemala, besides paying homage to the deceased, the All Saints' Day tradition includes the running of horses and flying of kites with notes for the departed.

Other practices

In Germany, knives are put away so as not to "hurt" the returning spirits while chairs—one for each member of the family, living or dead—are placed by the hearth in Czechoslovakia. Italians bake bean-shaped cakes called the Beans of the Dead while the Poles leave doors and windows open to welcome visiting spirits. The Portuguese hold feasts of wine, chestnuts and special sugar cakes spiced with cinnamon and herbs in the cemetery.

Other cultures not influenced by the West, have holidays similar to Halloween but held in other months. China has the Ch'ing Ming or the Clear and Bright Festival; Hong Kong, the Yue Lan or Hungry Ghosts Festival; India, The Day of Mahalaya (people go to the river Ganga to offer prayers for dead relatives and forefathers); Thailand, the Festival of Phi Ta Khon; and Japan, the O-bon Festival.

Remembering the dead is not only a custom that links past and present generations, dating back to the Aztecs and ancient Egyptians, but is also a shared tradition among different cultures and peoples.

The country spirits

From page D3

'Mangaluk'

The people of Batac, Ilocos Norte, believe in a monster similar to the *manananggal*—called the *mangaluk*. This creature is a black giant with, instead of fingers, long talons that he uses to claw his victims to death. The *mangaluk* has wings and, at night, goes off to look for traveling men.

'Tikbalang'

You know you're in the presence of a *tikbalang* when you smell a horse. That is, if there's actually no actual live horse around. It is believed the *tikbalang* only bathes during the full moon and was once a beautiful woman. Still, others believe s/he is man and a half-bred demon spawn.

Whatever its gender, you know it's a *tikbalang* if it has a head of a horse and a body of a human. S/he dwells in trees and, oh yeah, also eats people.

'Engkantos'

Those in Cagayan de Oro say *engkantos* are part of the group of angels who, along with Lucifer, stood up against God. Others believe they protect the forests and live in huge trees.

People in Bohol, however, say they are spirits that can be found in a famous hole called Bangag sa Engkanto where, inside, there are stones that look like beds, chairs and tables. During the olden times, Boholanos would supposedly borrow the *engkantos'* utensils for celebrations.

Davao would disagree—people there believe *engkantos* live in rocky places and that, at night, a rocky island called La Roca Encantada rises from the sea.

Engkantos are said to love humans. Sometimes, their obsession leads them to kidnap pretty maidens and handsome young men.

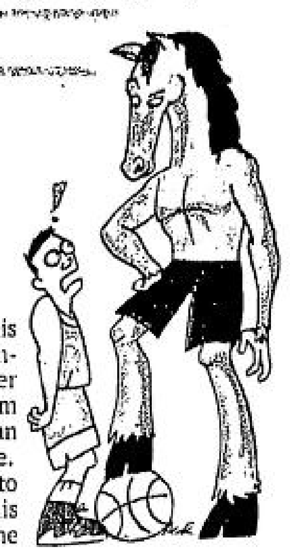
With *engkantos*, forget etiquette. Never, ever eat anything they offer you, as this would mean you are willing to stay with them forever, thus giving your body and soul. Others claim *engkantos* hate salt.

The 'white lady'

They say the "white lady" that appears in Balete Drive was concocted by residents of New Manila in order to ward off potential robbers and teenagers up to no good.

There are many theories on who, exactly, this "white lady" is: a raped woman seeking vengeance; a woman who committed suicide after she was left by a lover, and is still waiting for him to come back; and a teenager who figured in an accident and is still trying to find her way home.

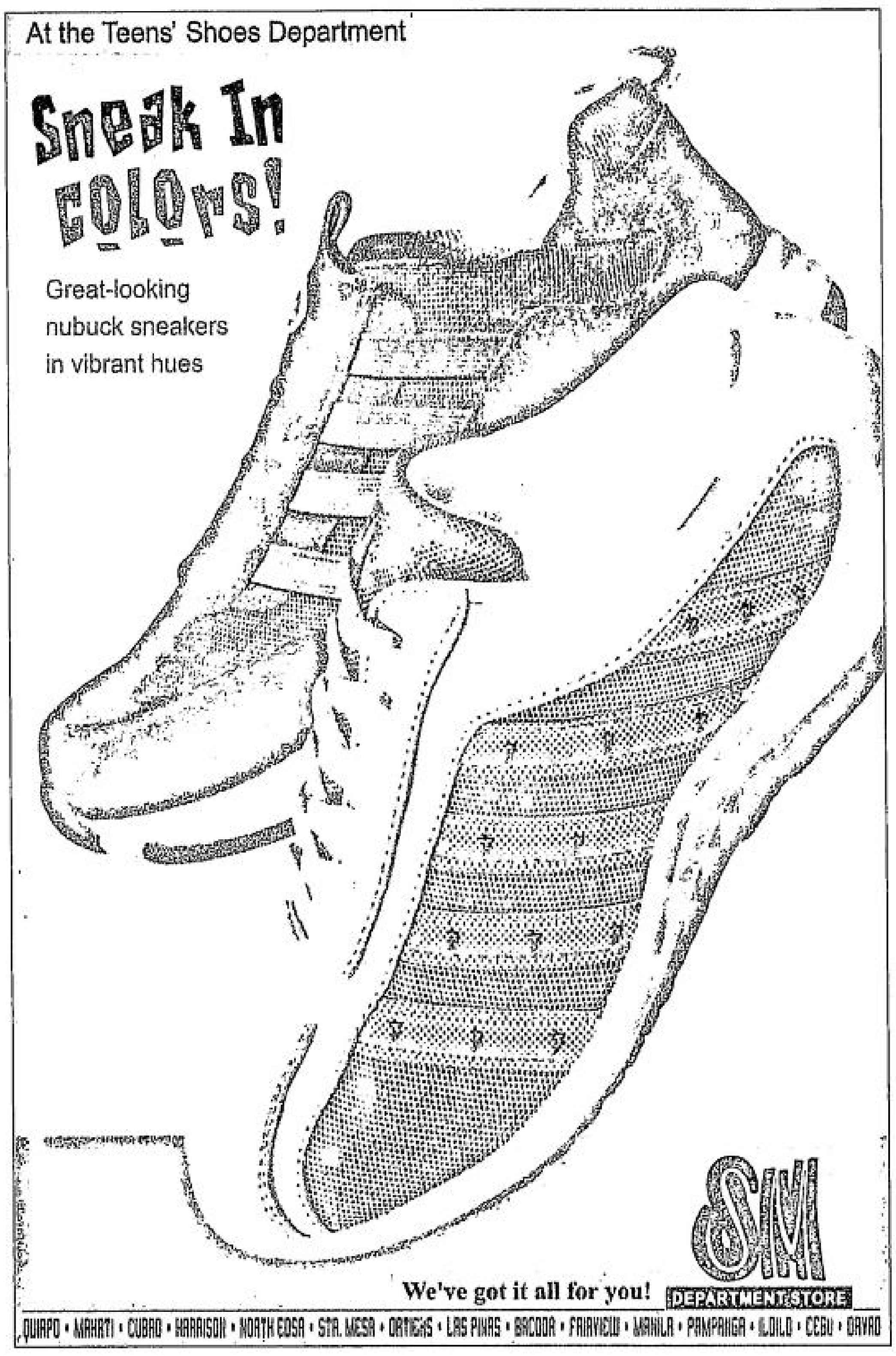
One popular story goes that a taxi driver had to wait outside an abandoned house because his "white lady" passenger told him to do so. In the morning, people in the area informed him that no one has lived in that place in a long time.



'Santilmo'

Our ancestors have been noticing those weird "orbs" even before those crazy nerds with magnifying glasses noticed them on snapshots. The *santilmo* is an orb that appears in places where an accident has taken place, or where someone has met a horrible death.

Some believe that whenever a fire appears at night, especially during rainy days, that *santilmo* is the spirit of a murdered person. To drive it away, build another fire. To avoid getting attacked by one, always have garlic, pomelo and vinegar on hand.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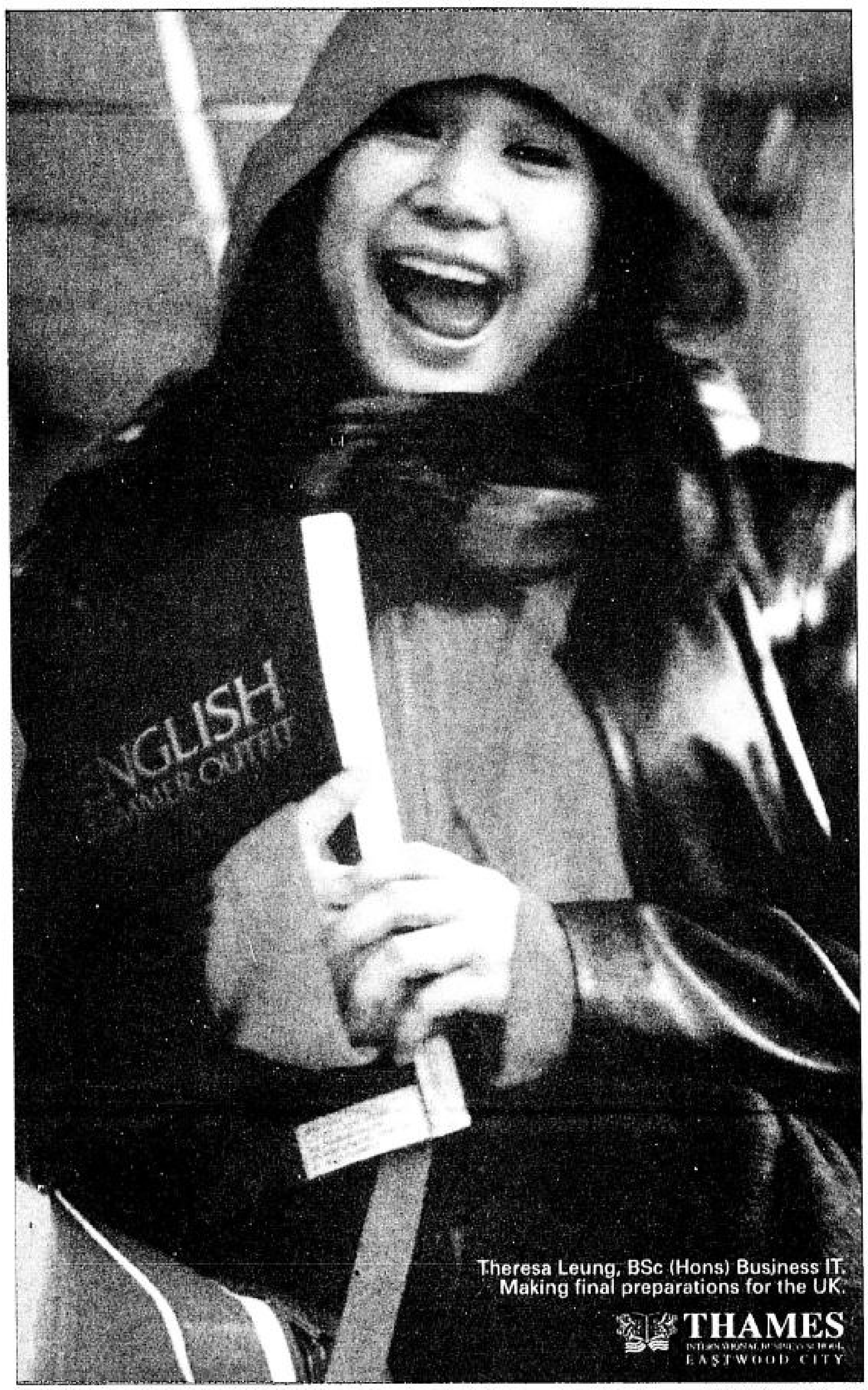
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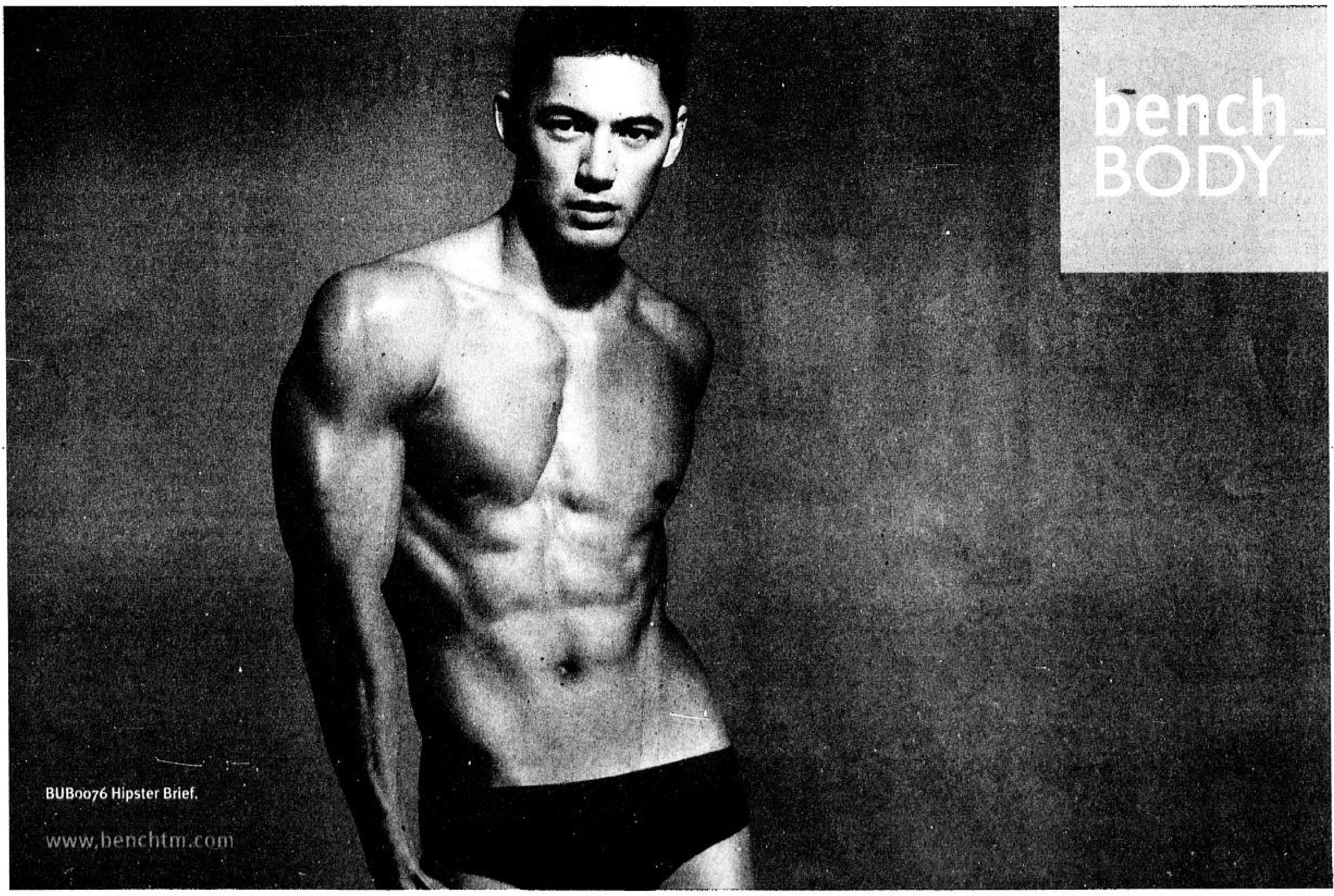
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Halloween becomes part of Pinoy culture

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

But Halloween, one of America's most popular holidays, would remain different and more special for Filipinos

IN THE PAST, Nov. 1 was known simply as Araw ng mga Patay. The last few days of October were spent buying flowers and candles and, on the first day of November, while streets are empty, cemeteries suddenly look like one big party place or a *palengke*.

The influence of the Westerners and the Pinoys' ability to embrace almost anything have changed things.

Halloween, one of America's most popular holidays, has become part of the Pinoy culture. Proof: Malls are all sporting Halloween motifs. We may have more *butong kalabasa* than jack-o-lanterns but that won't keep us away from costume parties in the city's hotspots.

Treats 'n' treats

Back when I was no taller than 3 ft, I was the only one in the neighborhood familiar with Halloween and trick or treat, having been brought up on American TV. In a desperate attempt to get some free sweet treats, I organized a "posse" and gave a crash course on Halloween 101. While the idea delighted them, we had one major problem: Dressing up as superheroes and knocking on doors did not guarantee free goodies since most folks were clueless about the whole trick or treat thing. And so, we made some cards (pumpkin-shaped, of course) and sent them to everyone we knew, telling them to have their candies ready on Halloween night. Fortunately, the neighbors understood.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

I didn't know that in the more affluent neighboring villages, the kids were already screaming "trick or treat!" for the longest time.

In the Philippines, trick or treat is more like treats 'n' treats. Parents splurge on sweets—chocolates, hard candies, bubble gum, lollipops.

Costume parties

Another Halloween staple, the costume party, has drag queens and fashion victims losing sleep thinking about what to wear. Everyone can be anyone—living or dead, male or female, human or animal, real or fictitious.

But Pinoys are known for being conservative and this shows even during Halloween. While nobody does a Maria Clara, no one dares to be a bikini-clad devil-ess or, among men, a G-stringed cupid. Many opt for the tried, tired and tested superheroes, Dracula and black or white ladies. Most of the time, parties are mere replays of previous ones with the same old crowd wearing the same old outfits.

Horror movie marathon

Halloween would not be complete without a stack of videos to make you scream loud enough to wake the whole neighborhood. There couldn't be any other night more suitable for a horror movie marathon than Oct. 31. Whether it's a giggle-inducing B-horror flick or a cult classic you've watched for the nth time, a horror movie fest is a Halloween-must enjoyed with friends or alone.

Local channels also schedule such movies. The showing of at least one, "Shake, Rattle & Roll," seems to be an annual event. Talk shows, documentaries and feature presentations are filled with ghost stories, haunted place's and other goose bump-inducing tales.

I know I'm not alone when I say I'm such a huge fan of "Magandand Gabi, Bayan" Halloween specials. They promote family togetherness by showing really scary stuff that spooks every household member, including Inday. They have scenes showing possessed students having fits although the reenactments often elicit chuckles.

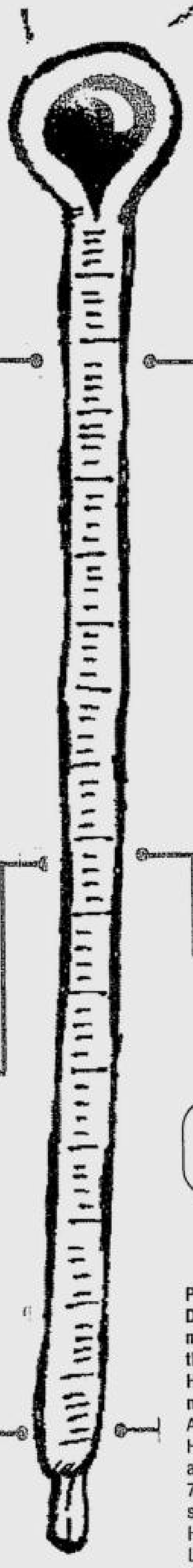
For the past couple of years, the Spirit Questors have been a *suki* of TV shows, and I'm sure they're booked solid again this year.

My own list of horror movies has only one entry—"The Exorcist"—which is more than I could handle.

But no matter how much Pinoys have copied from the Westerners—bobbing for apples, collecting tasty freebies, even making our own version of jack-o-lanterns—Halloween would remain different and more special for us. After the revelry and partying, we always find time to go to the cemeteries, and communicate with souls more important than Frankenstein or the bogeyman.

2BU! THERMOMETER

Service sizzles in Morato resto; Harry Potter loses a mentor



SERVICE at Teriyaki Boy on Tomas Morato's. Even on Sunday afternoons when the place is packed like anything, service still comes with a smile. Correspondent Maui Reyes got her order in five minutes flat.

GRILLA'S new menu! Every day has a different offering! Tuesdays have Barbecues and Beer; Thursdays, "One for Hoops" (shoot and score a free drink); and Sunday, Barbecue Day. Happy Hours, starting at 5 and ending at 8 p.m., offer local beers at 20 bucks. And our favorite, their new Street Food Platter, with *Isaw*, fishballs and our other fave *kanto* food at only P120!

YOUNG MACGYVER. The Gen Y get a' taste of the '80s.

PENSHOPPE'S exchange policy. Worry-free and hassle-free, as long as you return an item the next day.

"JACKASS: THE MOVIE" debuts at No. 1. Americans leave terrorism behind for a few hours as Johnny Knox makes, well, a jackass out of himself on the big screen.

RED Hot Chili Peppers and Oasis cancel their tours. They could have been the year's biggest concert events. Even David Pomeranz pulled out!

PEASANT TOPS. It's not even cold. It's supposed to be dead by now. Check your calendars—it's October, not *April*.

NEW food we've been stocking up on. Diet Dalandan Soda, Tim Yap can't stop chugging it. Crisp Cakes that come in brown chocolate, white chocolate (Maui's fave!) and brown chocolate with almonds. KFC's Hot Shots, hot in all senses of the word (according to Pam). Pepsi Blue, new color, new taste—think Pepsi with a hint of 7-Up (think going to the soda dispenser and mixing your fave sodas). Yum!

KELLY OSBOURNE. Papa Don't Preach? Try, "Kelly Don't Sing."

TERRORISM. Congratulations, meanies...you are now immortalized in the cold section.

PROFESSOR Dumbledore will no longer walk the halls of Hogwarts—in the movies, anyway. Actor Richard Harris passed away at the age of 72 at the University College Hospital in London on Oct. 26, of Hodgkin's disease, a form of cancer. Harry Potter will never be the same again.

The spookiest places in the Philippines

From page D8

ghosts actually walk through its winding roads. Teacher's Camp, for one, is said to be the home of a number of spirits who watch visitors in their sleep. They can be seen in the halls of some of the structures in the complex in the dead of night, the most popular of which is the Escoda Hall:

When a major earthquake hit the city in 1990, many lives were lost. Some natives claim that they hear cries of help in some of the sites, which were hit hard by the seismic tremor. These places have attracted ghost hunters to the city of pines, in search of wandering spirits and ghostly thrills.

Monsterville

Even when there is hardly any documented evidence linking Capiz to monsters, the place remains popular when it comes to tales about the *aswangs*. There was even a time when some people consider the Visayan province synonymous to "monsterville." According to folk belief, monsters assume humanity at daytime. But when the sun sets and the moon becomes big, bright and full, they turn into hideous creatures: half-human-half-beasts who feast on human innards. There's also the highly commercialized *manananggal* who rivals the white lady in popularity among spook-gibbers. This one, who has the ability to split its torso, uses its bat-like wings to fly in search of its victim, usually pregnant women. It lands on top of the roof and looks for a small crevice where it can sneak in its threadlike tongue so it can suck the fetus through the mother's belly.

Also in the Visayas, Siquijor draws attention for allegedly being a bastion of witchcraft. It has been a source of debate among our tourism officials. While it is said to scare tourists away, it's also its charm that lure vacationers to visit the place.

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The rich culture of folk magic could as well be the place's attraction. Besides, some of Siquijor's visitors may have read our local version of the West African Voodoo in books and magazines, and watched it on television. I remember a Halloween episode of "Magandang Gabi, Bayan," which featured the place and showed a man who made two paper dolls dance. It was worth a good goose bump or two.

Siquijor is also said to be a fortress of the *mambabarangs*. They are witches who use insects when they cast spells and curse on people. Only another *mambabarang* of a stronger power is said to be able to reverse the spell. When this is done, a fly, a roach or whatever crawler escapes the body of the victim through any of the openings of the face. Really jaw-dropping (but a dropped jaw would mean an open mouth, a point of entry to the *mambabarang*'s pet pest...so just keep it closed).

Spiritual center

Mystery also surrounds Mt. Banahaw in Southern Luzon. It is popular among fans of the supernatural. It may as well be considered the fortress of Philippine paranormal pedagogy (if there would be one) since it is considered the most powerful spiritual center in the country with its healing springs and aura of mysticism. The Holy Mountain has kept loyal trekkers who seek refuge for their new-age beliefs and activities. Angels are also said to have descended here. Though not actually scary, the experience may still be spine-tingling.

And if it's a good scare you're after, then you may want to climb Mt. San Cristobal, just beside Banahaw. If the latter is the center of good energy, San Cristobal is the opposite. Negative forces apparently radiate from what is considered the Devil's Mountain. An evil spirit is said to live here, probably finding no space in the angel-inhabited Banahaw.

Other mysterious places

Corregidor Island, located at the southwestern tip of Bataan, is known for ghostly apparitions from World War II. It is popular among ghost-hunters.

But one need not go far in search of something mysterious. Several places within the busy metropolis can also offer an avid ghost-seeker a treat or two.

Balete Drive in Quezon City continues to scare some motorists. The infamous white lady who allegedly crosses the road has found her way in many frightening stories that make travelers avoid the street after dark. It has also inspired the making of a movie sometime in the early '90s. The movie was a box-office success. A proof that we Pinoys really like to scare ourselves.

Mysterious voices and screams are said to be heard from the former site of the Ozone Disco in Quezon City at night. Ozone caught fire in 1996, leaving more than 100 people dead.

The Film Center at the CCP Complex in Pasay also has its fair share of ghost stories. Former First Lady Imelda Marcos offered the center as a testimony of her dedication to uphold Philippine art. However, workers were buried with wet cement due to an unforeseen collapse during the construction of the building. While some bodies were completely entombed, there were some who were only partially hidden. They were all left to die.

Apparently, the center has to be finished immediately. Authorities supposedly ordered the completion of the building, putting off operations to retrieve the bodies. The spirits of those under the site are believed to be scaring people coming in, as well as those in nearby buildings.

But it's not only the supernatural stuff that can be considered frightening. A trip to Recto can be scary, too. With its notoriety for snatchers and pickpockets, one may end up going home, losing jewelry while gaining a fresh hole in the gut. It also gets terribly chilling in Navotas and Malabon during the rainy season. With floods going roof-high, who wouldn't be scared stiff? You may also find a visit to some government offices something to be frightened of. Red tape and under-the-table negotiations in processing a title, a license or even just a simple inquiry will make you shake in fear of our country's seemingly bleak future.

These places are no different from the ones we see on television discussed by Linda Blair. Maybe in the future we can find one of them featured on the boob tube. The Philippines is an archipelago of 7,107 islands and the possibilities may just be the same. The television show could even devote an entire season for the Philippines. However, corruption may have scared the producers of the show to pursue the exploration of these interesting places in our country. Now, doesn't that scare you or what?

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DD Hamilton is also available at SM outlets in Metro Manila as well as in Bacoor, Cebu, Davao, Pampanga and Iloilo, and soon in Cagayan de Oro. EO-Executive Optical has branches at Festival Mall, Pavilion Mall in Biñan, Laguna; NE Pacific Mall in Cabanatuan, CSI City Mall in Dagupan City and Cooyeesan, Baguio City.

Deadline for HS debate contest set

ALL high school debate institutions are invited to send their representatives to the British Parliamentary Debate competition. The Astoria Plaza Ateneo Debate Society 1st Philippine Schools Debate Championship (PSDC) will be held at the Ateneo de Manila campus Nov. 22-25. Finalists of PSDC will be trained to represent the Philippines in the World Schools Debate Championship in Lima, Peru, next year. The championship will be televised on NBN Channel 4 on Dec. 1 at 4 p.m. Deadline for registration is on Nov. 15.

E-mail psdc2002@iateneo.com, text or call (0916) 623-3922 or (0918) 442-0356, or visit www.psdc.ads.com.

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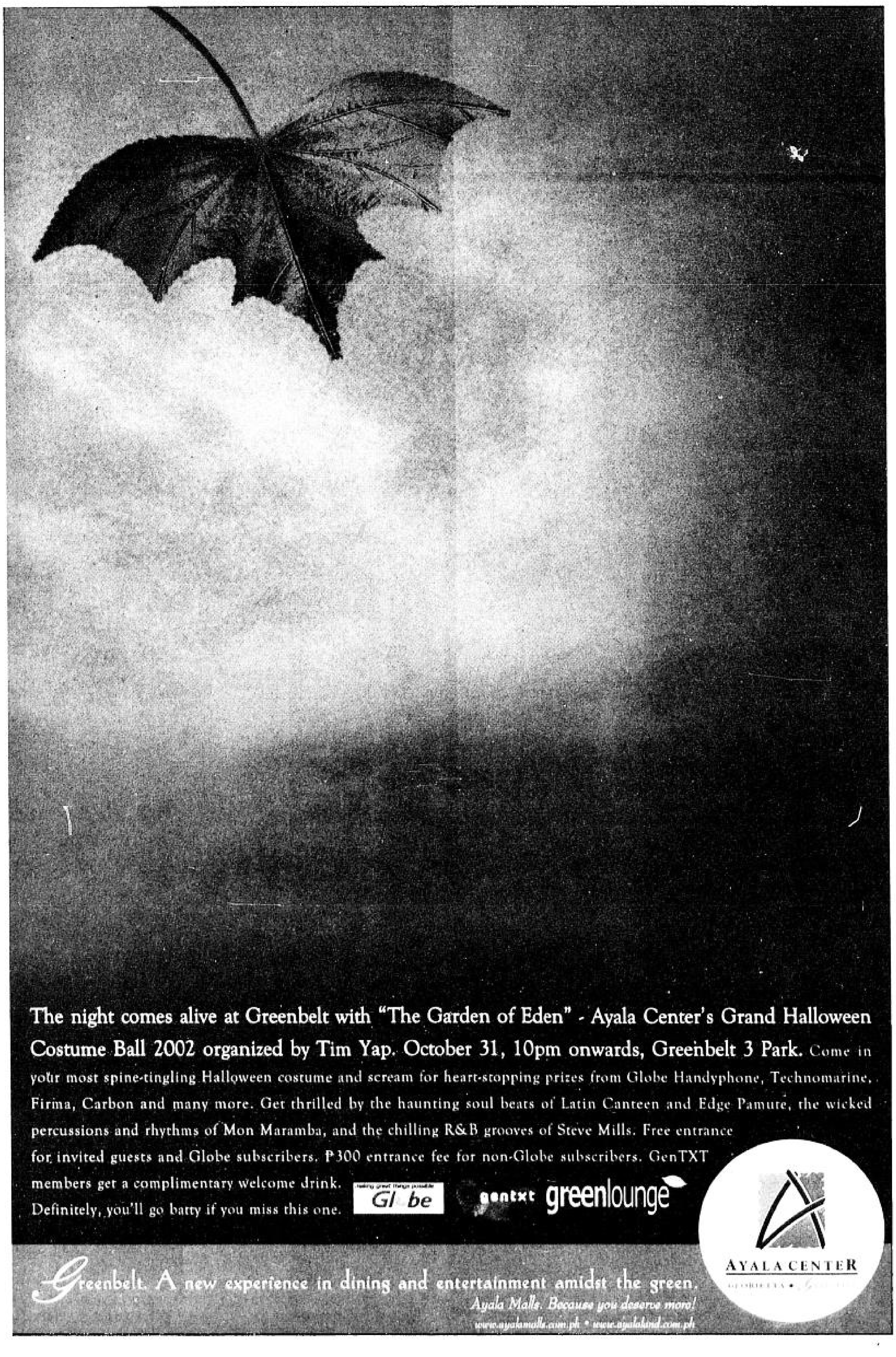
The night comes alive at Greenbelt with "The Garden of Eden" - Ayala Center's Grand Halloween Costume Ball 2002 organized by Tim Yap. October 31, 10pm onwards, Greenbelt 3 Park. Come in your most spine-tingling Halloween costume and scream for heart-stopping prizes from Globe Handyphone, Technomarine, Firma, Carbon and many more. Get thrilled by the haunting soul beats of Latin Canteen and Edge Pamure, the wicked percussions and rhythms of Mon Maramba, and the chilling R&B grooves of Steve Mills. Free entrance for invited guests and Globe subscribers. ₱300 entrance fee for non-Globe subscribers. GenTXT members get a complimentary welcome drink. Definitely, you'll go batty if you miss this one.

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Chowking
Dito kumakain ang masarap kumain.

The spookiest places in the Philippines

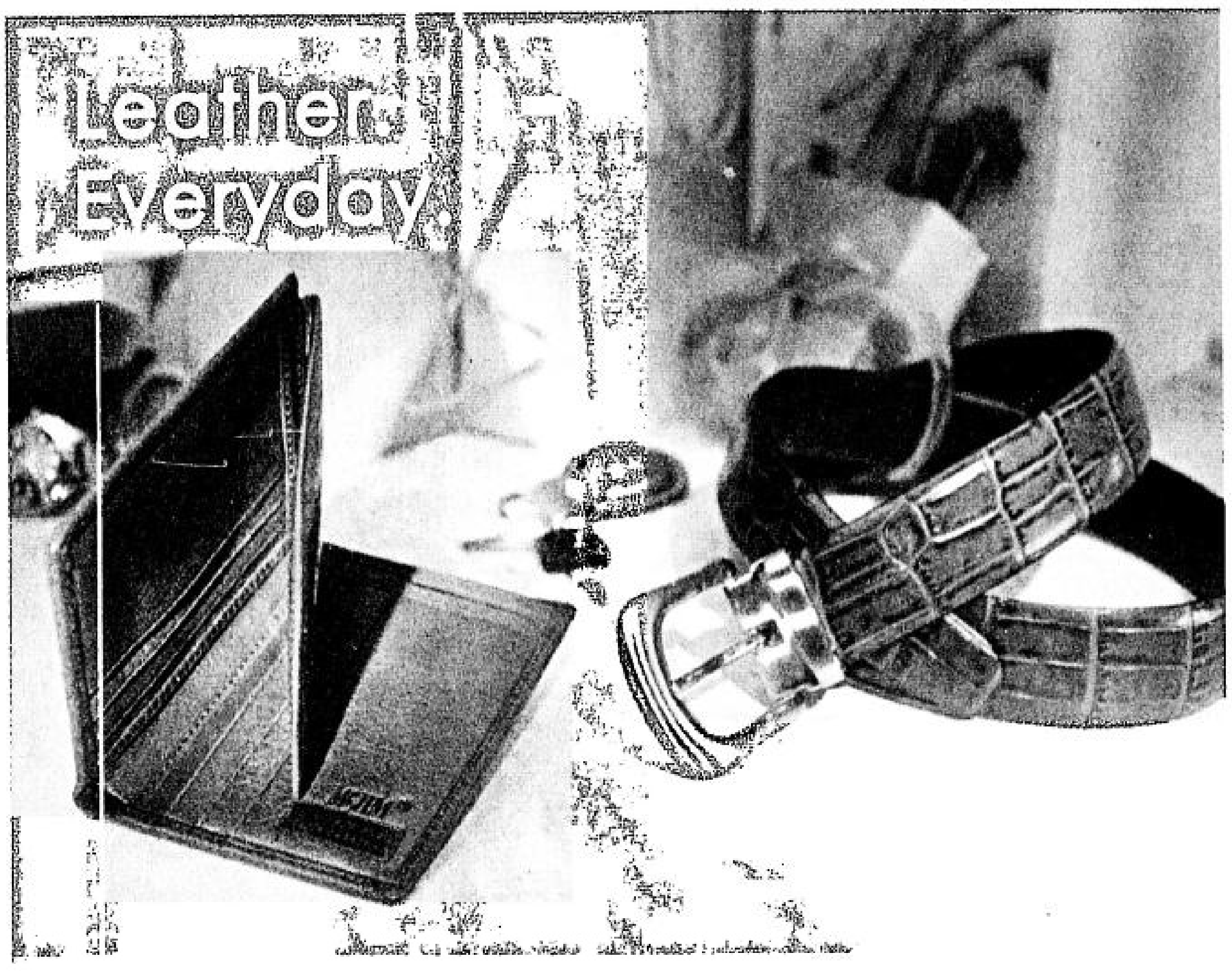
The country has its own share of mysterious and scary places that thrill seekers can explore

By Armin Adina
PDI Research Department

WHEN I first heard of "Scariest Places on Earth" on television, I wondered if they would feature the Philippines. Why not? Ghost stories and other tales on the supernatural abound in our country. These stories have spooked generations of Filipinos, some have been revised through the years.

The country's summer capital, Baguio City, is not only famous for its strawberries, peanut brittle and knitwear. The city's cool weather, which is one of its major attractions, is also fit for the creeps. It is believed that

THE SPOOKIEST/ p.D6



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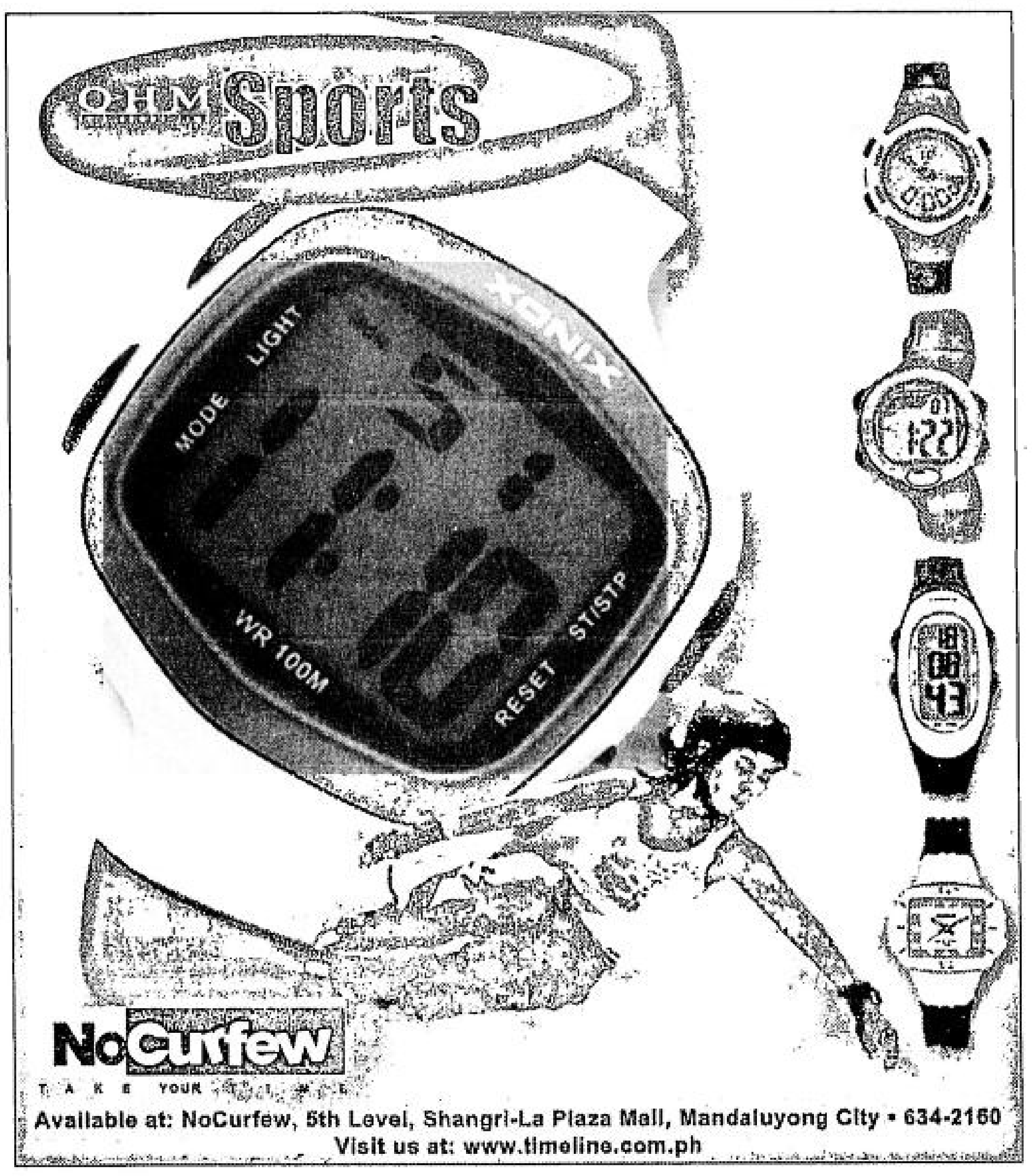

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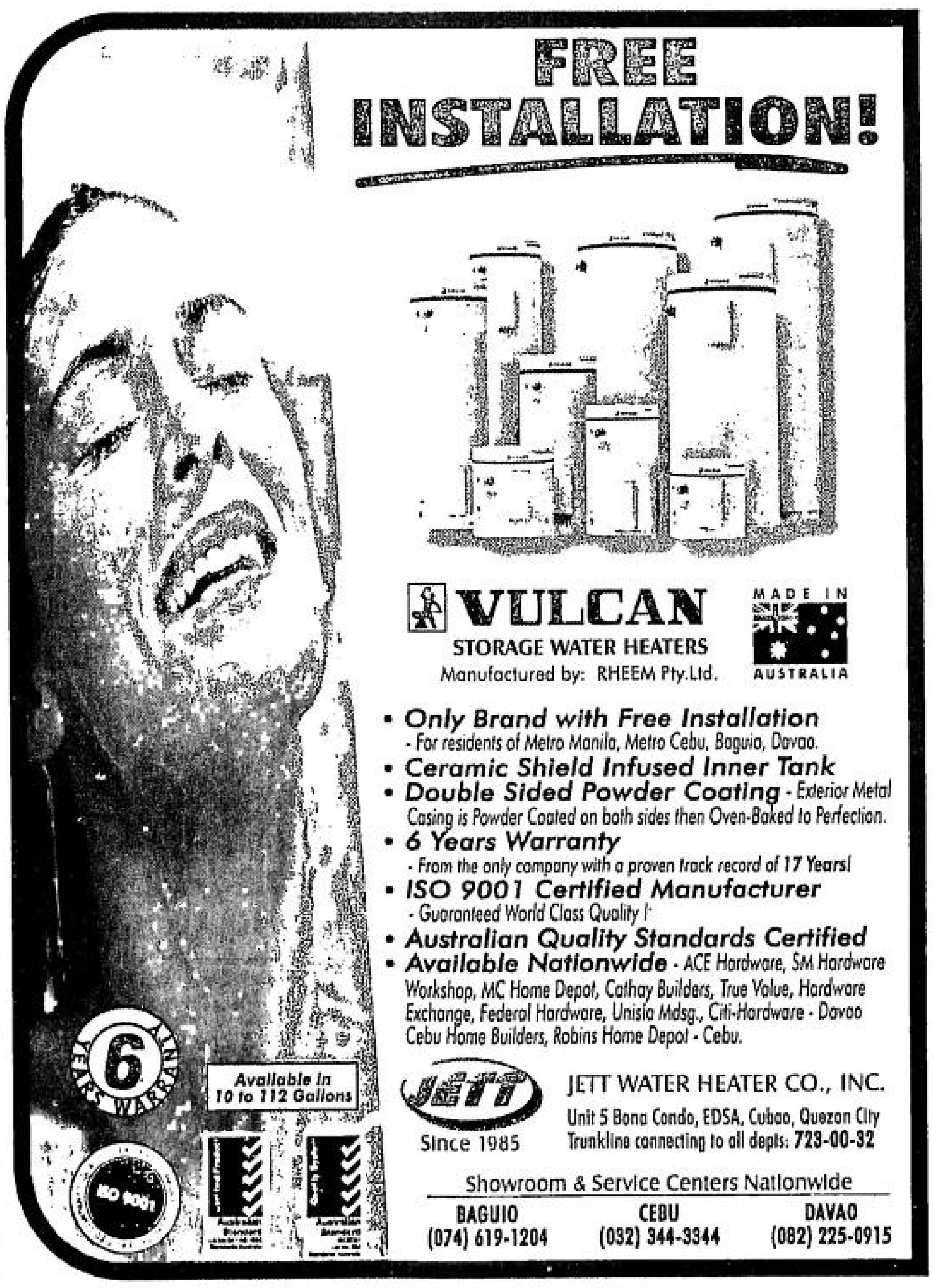

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2BU! PARTY HOP

Where will you be this Halloween?

By Tim Yap

A GRAND costume ball set amid the lush confines of a park, local and foreign superstar DJ showdowns, retro dance fests and over-the-top theme parties—the Halloween haunt is on, and 2bU! gives you the exclusive invites to the scene's most happening events—so ride your carriages and be ready to get frisky.

With only one day to go, Halloween is indeed around the corner. In fact, early beavers are up for the witchhunt starting tonight, All Hallow's Eve, with all its tenacious twists and costumed turns. Thriller night, everyone.

So, with the dizzying array of parties ready to lure you with all the perks and potions—you better map out your Halloween destinations this early. You wouldn't want to miss out on a hip happening just because you got stuck somewhere else.

This early (or late), do you have your Halloween costume ready? I'm sure like the rest of the procrastinating populace, you are still in a quandary—to be scary or to be fabulous, prince or pauper, glam or ghetto?

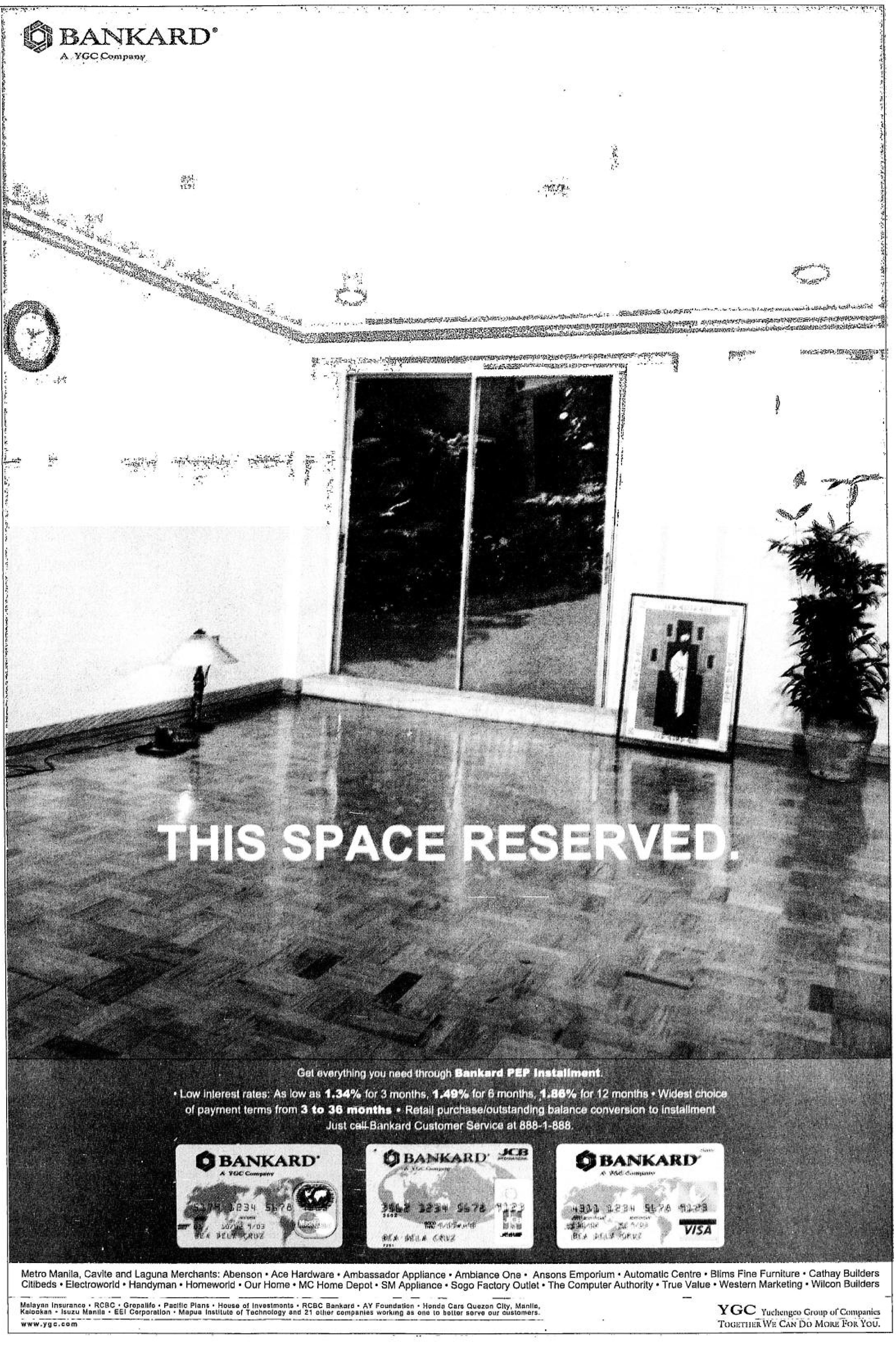
So, rush to your neighborhood costume maker and double on the overtime pay. Half of the Halloween fun is the costume. Run to Camp Suki, or to the costume department of your favorite theater company. Or better yet, make your own! Run to SM, Rustan's kids department, Carolina's or Fabric Warehouse and drape yourself with fabrics of your choice and fulfill your fantasies. If you look scary in it, don't fret—that's why it's called Halloween.

The trend this Halloween shifted a day ahead, as there are more bewitching events happening tonight, one night before all the witches (and bitches) come out.

Wednesday night out

At the Malate front, Acquario takes in the A-list with "Hell Freezes Over," its own version of a wonderfully wicked pre-Halloween gathering.

WHERE/ p.E2



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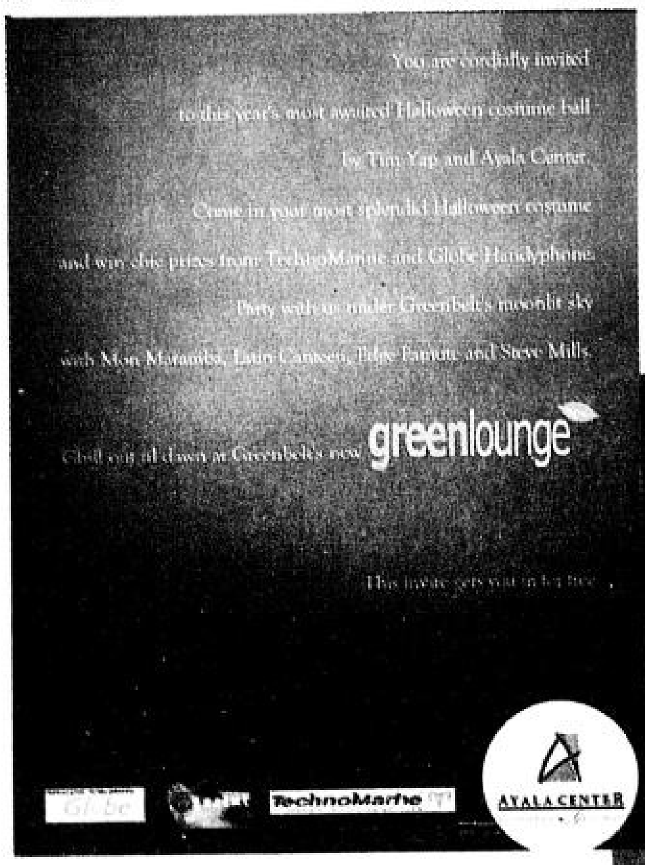

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Party with us under Greenbelt's moonlit sky
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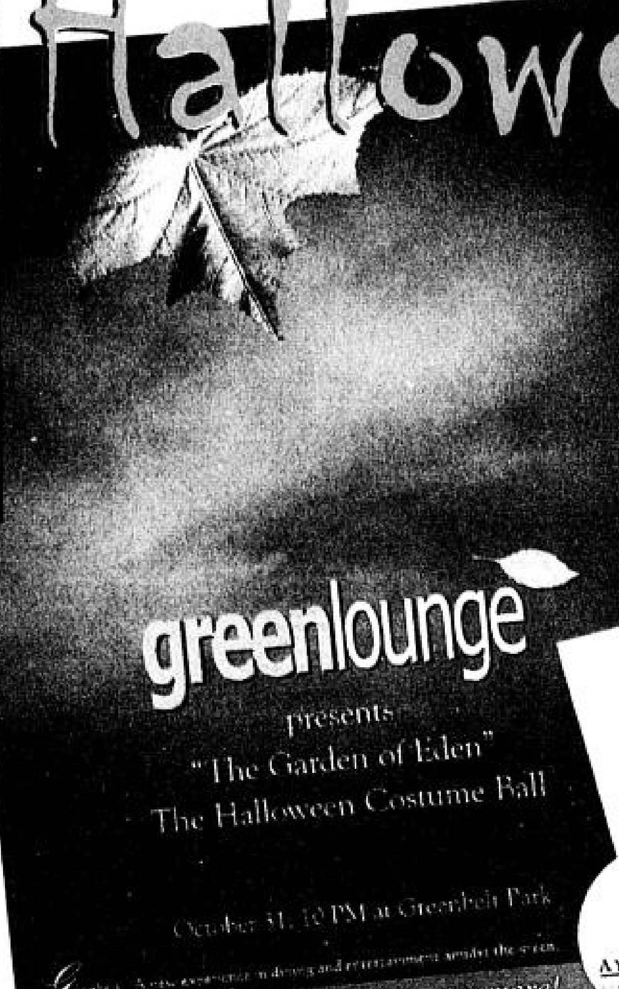
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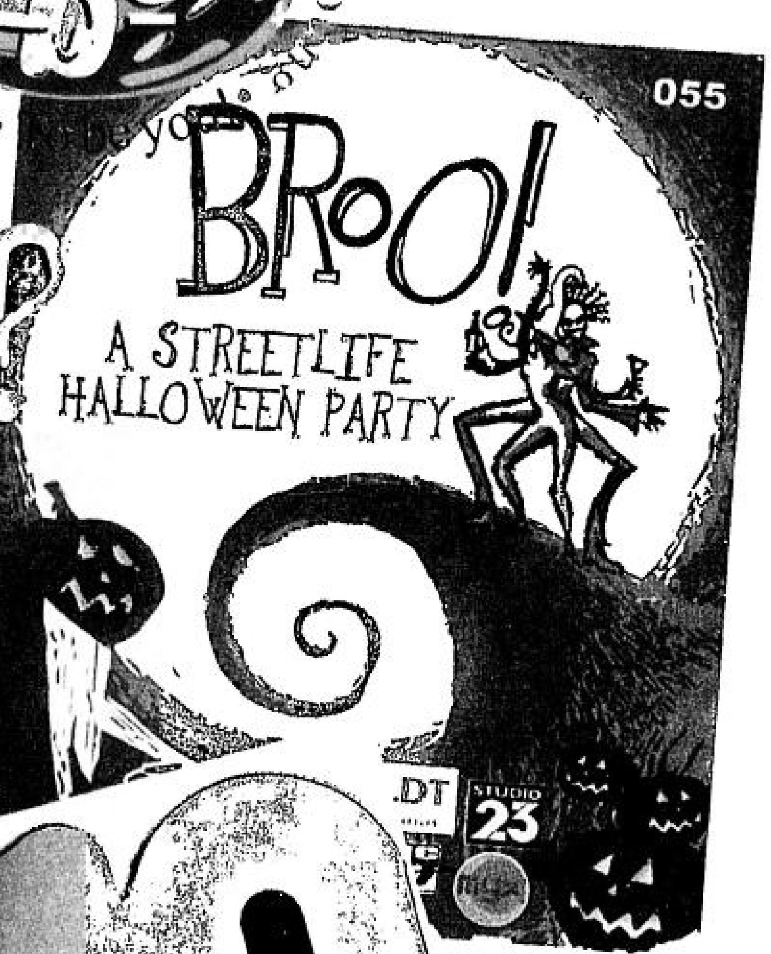

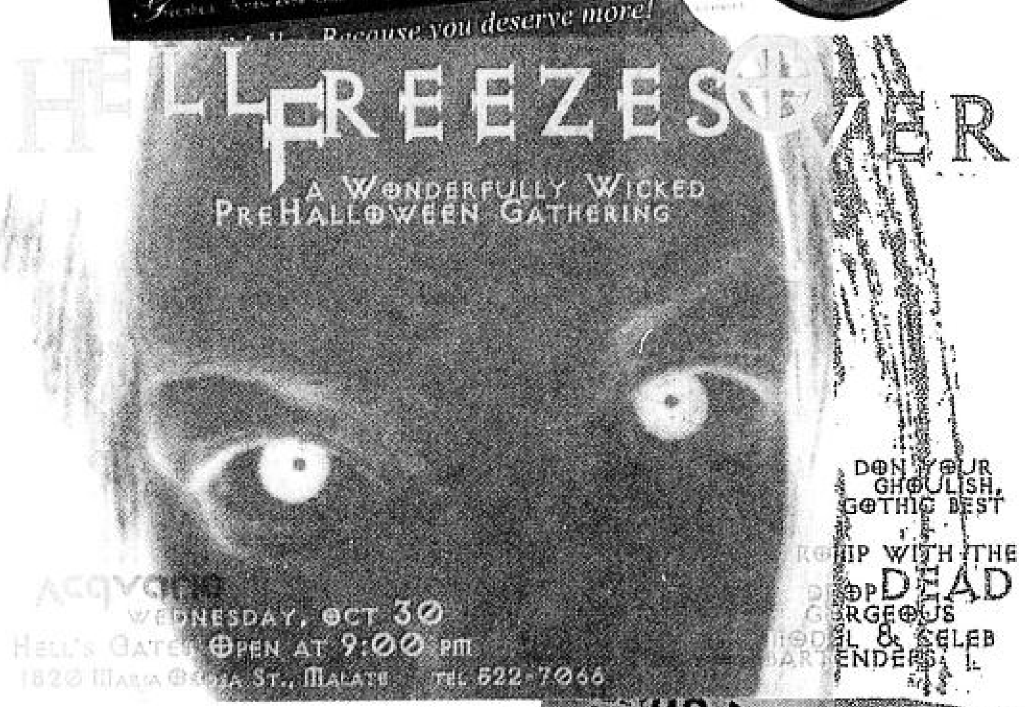
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From page E1

"Romp with the drop-dead gorgeous models and celeb bartenders, which I personally handpicked for the night!" exclaimed DJ Montano, the hip bar's magnificent maven as he sipped his Celini, a potent mix of gin and sin.

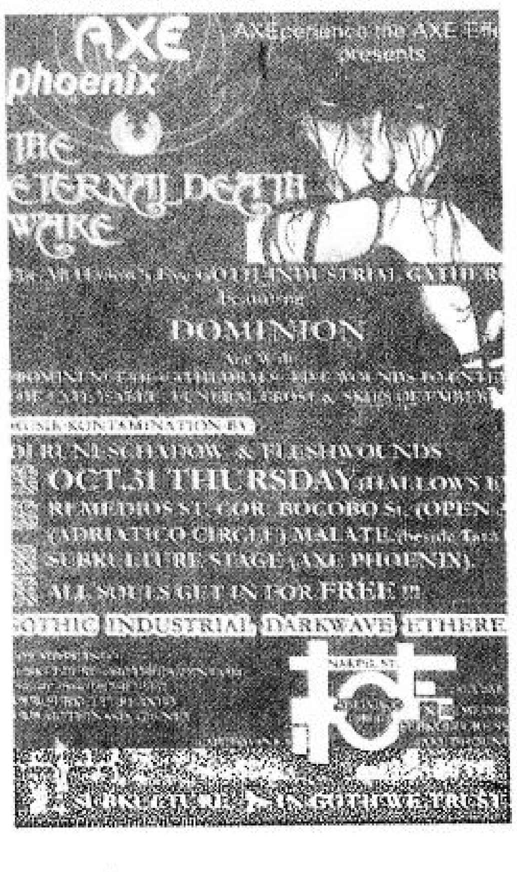
If you don't feel like partying with ghouls and gargoyles, then you might want to go to the NBC Tent for Joey 92.3's "Disco Nights"—an '80s dance fest that will make you so high you'd want to wear tight jeans and audition for "Disco Fever!" Don your flashiest retro gear and go on "instant replay" mode.

At Flute, it's "Cowboys and Angels, Leather and Lace"—A Hallow's Eve party with DJs Patch and Adrian Cuenca; bar flows 9-11 p.m.—so expect Flute hostess Christine San Diego to be the night's sizzling seductress. If you want to take your S&M fantasies one step further à la "Eyes Wide Shut," then get those masks ready! Your party's at Green Planet, 9 p.m. till dawn, with DJs Raffy, Patch and NBK's RBM. And oh, don't forget your whip.

Swatch has its own scary shindig at Greenbelt's newest haunt, Tavern on the Square—expect Swatch babe Sarah Meier in her scariest (I can't picture that) while Streetlife will have a band showdown and prizes galore.

Thursday main event

For Halloween night—all roads lead to the new Greenbelt area for "The Garden of Eden"—the grand Ayala Halloween costume ball, which sets you off to a night of partying under the stars, organized by the Ayala Center with Globe's GenTxt. A parade of costumed characters, aside from the hippest music meisters, heightens the night, with a contest for the most wicked, colorful, fun and funky garb.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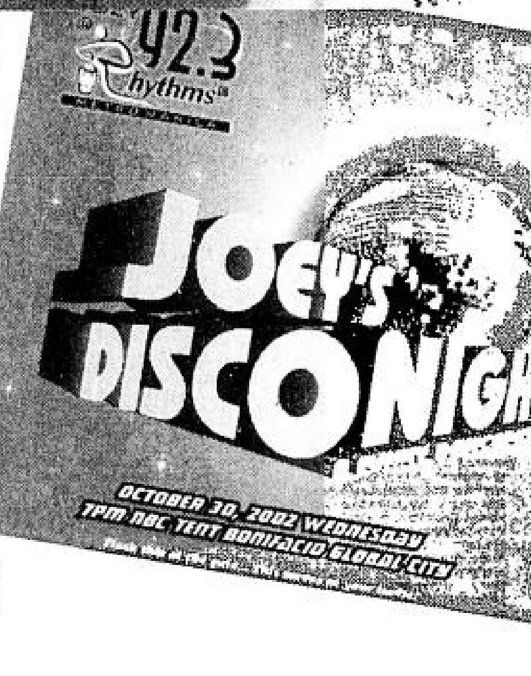
Expect the sounds of DJ Edge Pamute of BBC with his Latin Canteen beat factory as they put the capital L in Latin lust. Perfect, since the party is within the vicinity of one of its partners, hot, hot Havana! "Expect Manila's most beautiful grooving and parading in their Halloween best," said JR Isaac as he sipped his mangojito. Up next, playing under the lush gardens of the Greenbelt park, are the Mystical Musical Merchants, with Wherelse resident Mon Maramba. Surprise prizes, from trips to Technomarine watches, await those in fab, fun, fantasy wear. So if I were you, I would make it a point to go to this party as my first hop this Thursday. Think "Green Lounge," baby!


92.3 Rhythms
JOEY'S DISCONIGHT
OCTOBER 30, 2002 WEDNESDAY
7PM NBC TENT BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY

Oh, did I tell you that DJ Steve Mills will spin at the Greenbelt park party as well? Late at night, the Ayala Halloween Costume Ball shifts to R&B mode, as a chill alternative to all the techno house that pervades the Halloween scene.

Pravda hosts an all-red party with an open bar to all those invited for the night. NBK holds its own version of "The Most Glamorous Halloween Ball," nope not with Miss MoneyPenny's (their Australian DJs got scared of the bombs and stuff—chicken), but with a gathering of local DJs, from NBK residents Manolet Dario, 78 Orange's Anthony Kierulf to other up-and-coming DJ discoveries like Mark Naval, Chip de la Calzada and Elian Habayeb. This happens at Cats in the New World Renaissance Hotel, right beside the new Greenbelt.

Malate, the sleeping giant, boasts of its own "Eternal Death Wake" party, part of a whole Axe party series. Watch the streets of Malate come alive with bands and a full-on street party. "It's time to get wet and wild once more," said Malate mover Markus Schmidt, from our favorite Fidel.

Cream holds fort at the NBC Tent with Seb Fontaine (as if we didn't know, with Anton Ramos at the VIP room) and jumps to Wherelse for the after-party. By that time, you are just about to reach your party peak—and before you know it, the sun is out. Don't worry, there are even more after, afterparties around town. Up to you to find that out.

See you this Halloween, dear partyphiles. Bwa ha ha ha!

Treating, rather than tricking, on Halloween

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

HALLOWEEN, according to some accounts, started from an ancient pagan celebration in Ireland to mark a New Year—the old year was the end of the harvest season and the New Year began with the onset of the winter season. The period from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 were seen as "in-between days." On those three days, the dead were honored not as dead, but as living spirits of loved ones. It was also believed that on those days, evil spirits would wander among the living so villagers started the practice of wearing frightening costumes to scare away the evil spirits.

Over the years, other ways of marking Halloween, aside from wearing creepy costumes, have evolved. For those who are no longer little kids and do not go around trick-or-treating, here are some alternative ways to spook yourself and/or others this Halloween.

Pay a good *manghuhula* a visit. I spent Oct. 31 last year waiting in line with two good friends to see a famed clairvoyant in one of Manila's upscale malls. We got spooked listening to a complete stranger reveal our most intimate secrets and details about our personal lives, without our telling him anything. The palm-reading session was a great bonding experience for the three of us, as the skeletons in our respective closets were revealed to the others.

Organize a scary-movie-marathon. If you have a thing for bathrooms, try to find a copy of the movie "Psycho," the original. If you can't handle movies of that intensity and caliber, a good alternative will be the series on Freddie Krueger ("Nightmare on Elm Street"). Or go for the Hannibal Lecter trilogy—"Red Dragon," "Silence of the Lambs" and "Hannibal," in that order. You'll be peeing in your seats in no time and, at the same time, enthralled and awed by the great actor that is Anthony Hopkins.

Visit; with your friends and family, your favorite orphanage or the nearest public hospital's children's ward with goody bags. Halloween fun shouldn't be only for those who lead privileged lives. Many kids in the country need an extra dose of love and warmth, especially during trying times.

> The fun shouldn't be only for the privileged. Many kids need love and warmth, especially during trying times

There's a long list of good institutions to choose from. You can bring loot bags or organize a simple program of games and interaction to spend quality time with the kids. I suggest that you go to Elsie Gaches Village in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Call them at 807-7102/4141/4140.

Throw an adults-only scavenger hunt at night around the city or a costume party. Couples can come as salt-and-pepper shakers while a single female siren can come as the dark dominatrix of S&M. Throwing a party like this can flop if not all your friends and acquaintances are ready and willing. Everyone should be game enough to wear something from his or her grandma's trunk in storage.

Rid yourselves of excess baggage and make peace with the ghosts in your backyard. Forgive, kiss and make up with your enemies. Holding a grudge makes things difficult for you, not your enemy. If forgiving him or her is too much to ask for, at least let go of the anger and resentment that you harbor inside. You should try to be free and happy. If you can't make peace with your enemy, at least make peace with your past and accept that whatever happened, happened.

Watch South Border at Hard Rock Café Makati at 9:30 p.m., or earlier, at 6 p.m., at the Alabang Town Center. If you want to have a good night out with your friends and are interested in other bands and music of different genres, check out inq7.net's City Guide to find other bands, events and parties you can attend on Oct. 31.

Exorcise the demon in you—go to a parlor or spa. Treat yourself to a nice massage. For the frustrated and angst-ridden, get a haircut and have a fresh new look for the holidays.

Visit the inmates of Bilibid and get to know people behind the "costume." It may seem intimidating but try to see beneath the surface and see the humanity that make them just like you you.

Go ghost hunting, give the Ouija board a go, or read books about the famed Spirit Questors. This is just suggestion. There are many other ways, probably more meaningful and fruitful, that you can do to pass the time. If I'm not mistaken, the Church isn't too pleased with Catholics playing around with Ouija boards.

Prepare Halloween treats or dishes for you and your family. Surf the Net to find good recipes and how-to's for this season. We're not exactly pumpkin country, so be ready to make substitutions. You can also try to make little "spiders" for your *pamangkins* and other younger and eager relatives using Fibisco's yummy Mallows, M&M's and icing for eyes and licorice sticks for legs.

Have a good Scare on All Hallows' Eve

By Ma. Angela V. Ignacio
2bUI Correspondent

Fearless, huh? Wait till you try these gimmicks on Oct. 31

THERE'S nothing more exhilarating than a good scare on All Hallows' Eve. As the clock slowly ticks its way to midnight, beads of cold sweat start to trickle down your face and your heart pounds like a crazed Energizer bunny. Your eyes dart furtively around the pitch-black room, and your imagination starts to run wild with thoughts of what you cannot see... and what you just might. Here are several things you can do to keep yourself wide awake and shivering under your blanket for days:

Summon the Candyman, Pinoy-style. There's an old superstition that if you light a candle and look into the mirror at midnight, you might see either the face of your true love or the devil himself. Or you can try to see if the Candyman really exists by chanting his name. But whatever appears aside from your reflection, better be prepared for it.

Watch "Twilight Zone" reruns. I don't know about you, but the opening theme alone is enough to send chills up and down my spine. What's so scary about this series is that it takes your weirdest thoughts and turns them into situations that are fictional yet frighteningly real at the same time. It's frightening to see all those screaming idiots get their clothes torn off by hooded freaks in campy slasher flicks.

Play "Silent Hill" alone in a dark room. PlayStation gamers would do well to remember this really creepy game where one player assumes the role of a man who searches for his young daughter in a ghost town. No eerie background music—just the ominous silence coupled with your own breathing and rapid heartbeat. Call it overreacting, but no one in my family has ever finished the game yet; it makes us too jumpy.

Stay up till 3 a.m. I'm not talking about partying the night away and coming home at that certain hour, although many of us often do that. It seems like midnight isn't the bewitching hour anymore. Some say that it's at 3 a.m. when ghosts and other supernatural beings roam the earth, since it's the deadest hour of night when everyone's supposed to be asleep. Others connect it to the hour that Jesus Christ died (but didn't He die in the afternoon?). Whatever the reasons, I make it a point to sleep before that hour comes.

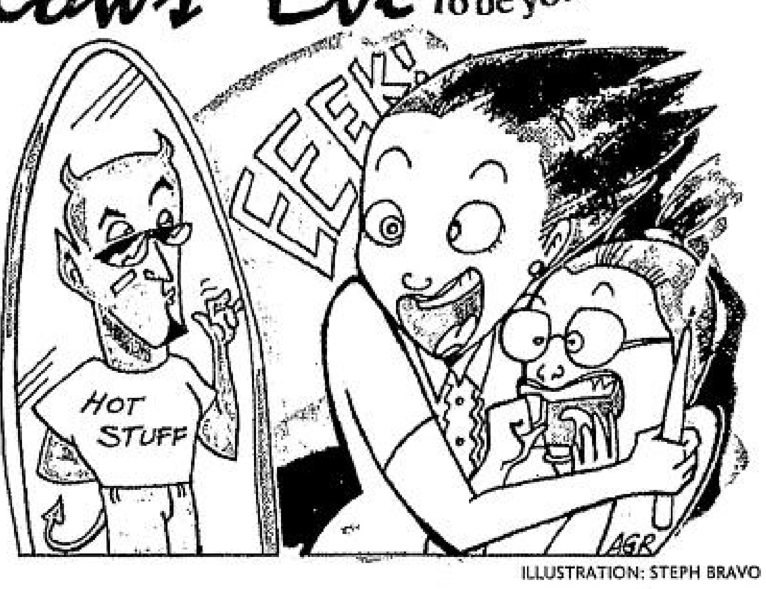
Go ghost hunting in Baguio. This is the classic place to search for spooks—bitingly cold weather, dark, eerie forests and lots of haunted hotspots. Or should I say "cold spots"?

Join a spirit quest. I've been wanting to participate in one, but friends have advised me against it. Unless you have a strong will and an even stronger faith, don't even attempt. Opening your third eye is no joke, either; you'll be seeing and dealing with strange things you've never known before.

Ask your *lola* to narrate spooky stories. I'm sure our grandparents have a truckload of supernatural stories from their childhood, and what better time to tell them than now? From encounters with a *kapre* or *dwende* to stories of *aswangs* and *manananggals*, we get to learn more about our rich native folklore as well as give ourselves a good fright.

Stay overnight in a haunted place. Some old houses, such as those that were built as early as the 19th century, are said to be dwelling places of spirits. I've also heard that if houses have been abandoned for a long period of time, wandering spirits may come and live there. Who knows? Maybe your own house isn't as ghoul-free as you thought...

E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko@hotmail.com.



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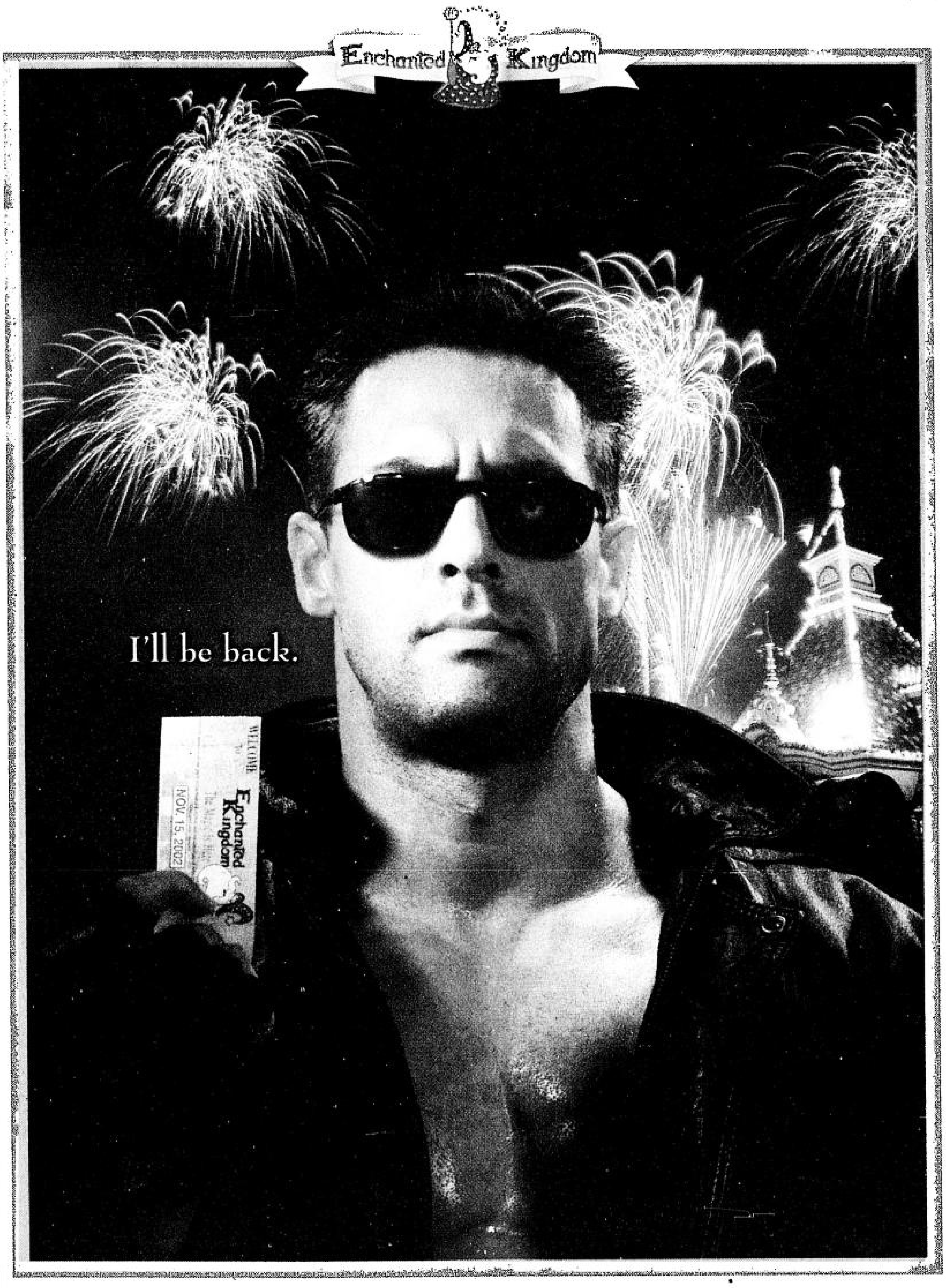

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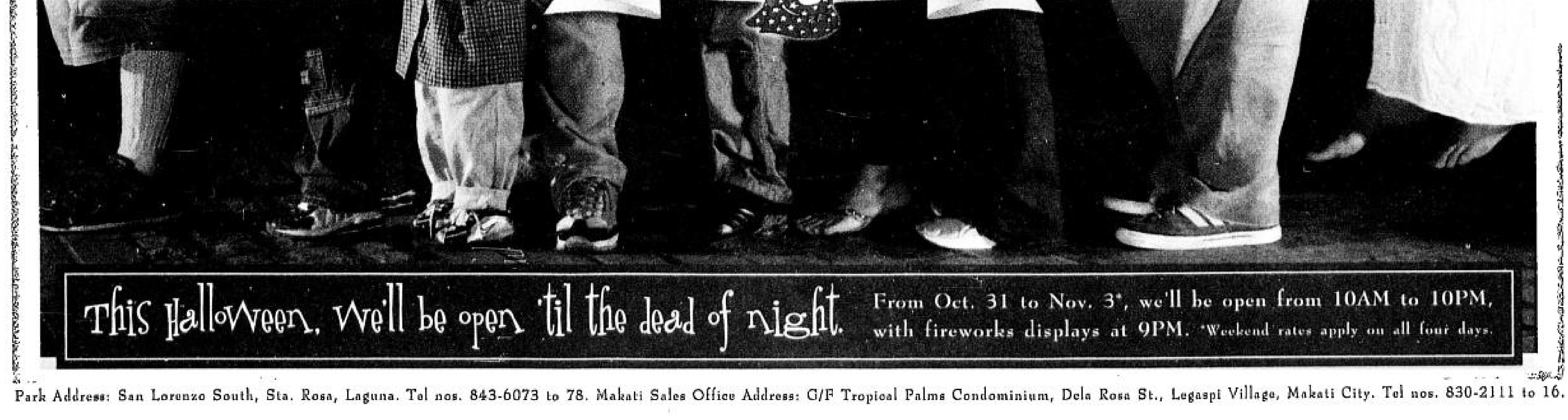
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The MUMMY — that Brendan Fraser didn't see

Due to looting and vandalism, the Ibaloi caves are now on the World Monuments Fund's list of most endangered sites

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to be you!

THE AUTHOR at the Opdas burial cave

By Walter Ang
2bU! Correspondent

BRENDAN Fraser may have made chasing mummies glamorous and exciting, but then he did not have to make the seven-hour ride from Manila to Baguio and another bumpy three-hour jeepney ride to Kabayan town in Benguet.

I wondered why I accepted the chance to see some Philippine mummies, especially when local officials kept asking who we were and what we were doing there.

Visiting a strange land

We explained that we were joining the crew of National Geographic Channel's "The Mummy Road Show," which is about two scientists' trips around the world to study mummified remains, in this case, members of the Ibaloi tribe that was indigenous to the area.

We finally got hold of our contact person, Engineer Orlando Abilion of the National Museum, and learned of the changes in our itinerary. We wouldn't be meeting the TV crew until later that day as a local elder, a "mummy finder," was taking them to a burial cave.

We had to entertain ourselves for a few hours and found out about a nearby burial cave that wasn't off limits to the public. The Opdas burial cave, about 10 ft wide and 8 ft deep, didn't have mummies but contained rows and rows of human skulls and some thigh bones (if I remember my anatomy class correctly). I was disappointed that little was done to conserve the natural look of the cave. The skulls were neatly arranged on some stone "shelves."

Mummies

We went to the local museum to do some research. The museum was a small cottage with four mummies on display. Unlike the better known Egyptian mummies, the Ibalois' weren't wrapped in gauze. They were in fetal positions, with a brown layer of preserved skin clinging to the skeleton.

A sense of humor is probably something Pinoys take to the grave. Why else would one mummy be labeled as the "Smiling Mummy" and another as the "Laughing Mummy"? The smiling one was laid on a blanket called *kalebao*, which is especially made for the dead. A third mummy was wrapped in *abek* (bark cloth), while the fourth, supposedly female, had tattoos all over her dried skin.

The Ibalois mummified their dead for hundreds of years until the 15th century. Elite members of the tribe drank brine on their deathbeds to begin preserving their organs. After death, the corpse was placed on a "high chair" in a crouching position and a fire lit underneath to dry the corpse (thus preserving the tissues). A jar was also placed under the corpse to collect the draining fluids.

This seemed a much more efficient way of preparing a mummy than the Egyptian method, which involved the removal of organs.

After completing the "high chair" process, the Ibaloi mummy was rubbed with herbs and "cured" by blowing tobacco smoke into the mouth. The mummy was then placed in coffins, some of which were elaborately sculpted in the shape of carabaos.

The climate in Kabayan probably helped preserve the mummies, although I was aghast that the museum had no climate-control and the mummies were not even kept in glass cases. The mummies were just lying there on the ground for visitors to breathe on. A museum staff member confessed, "Not enough has been done to preserve the mummies." At least, there was still a museum for the mummies. Due to looting and vandalism, the Ibaloi caves are now on the World Monuments Fund's list of most endangered sites.

Doing 'house calls'

The National Geographic crew arrived, having been able to shoot inside the caves. They had to set up hurriedly so they could film the mummies in the museum before nightfall.

Hosts Ron Beckett and Jerry Conlogue, the two scientists, use modern imaging techniques in studying mummies. Conlogue has developed a "portable" X-ray machine that could be used in sites where mummies cannot be removed—perfect for archeological "house calls," if you will. Beckett, on the other hand, uses an endoscope (a tiny video camera attached to a long flexible tube) to see and reach areas inside mummies not accessible to an X-ray. Together, the scientists can determine a mummy's sex, age at the time of death, possible cause of death, preservation techniques used and disease patterns, among other information.

With the Ibaloi mummies, they wanted to determine the age at the time of death and possible cause of death, and hopefully get a whole episode's worth of material. After setting up their equipment, a local suddenly appeared and said, "You can't take pictures of the mummies! You weren't at the cleansing ritual yesterday! People who don't ask permission always end up with damaged photos. It's a curse, I tell you!"

X-RAYS of one of the Ibaloi mummies in the museum

PHOTOS BY WALTER ANG

"THE MUMMY Roadshow" host Ron Beckett taking down notes

Curses and rituals

After a long day filled with unexpected schedule changes, miscommunication, bureaucracy and other annoying incidents, no one was in the mood to heed warnings about curses and rituals, even though we understood and respected local customs and values. Abilion, who facilitated our coverage, could not help clear up things. When I got him and the local together, they ignored each other. I realized that the exciting adventure film was turning into a cheesy creature-feature B-movie.

Somehow, the problem was resolved and we were able to take partial shots of the mummies during breaks, while Abilion kept sneaking out for cigarette breaks. The show's production manager had to keep calling him back.

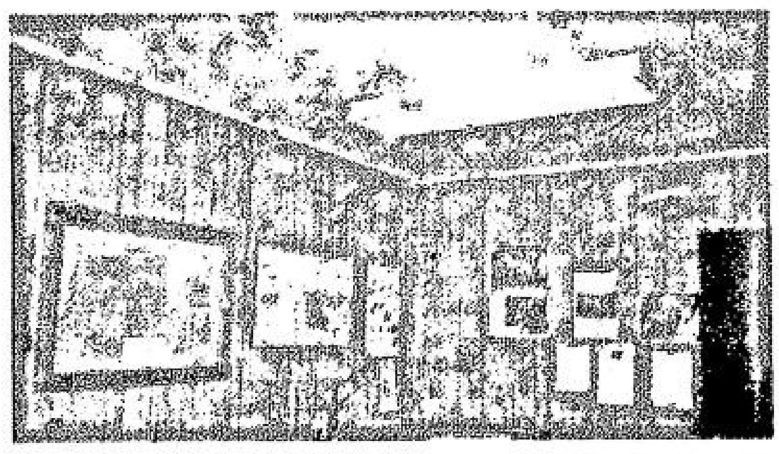
The shoot went pretty smoothly afterward. The two amiable hosts kept the mood light with their easy manner and silly jokes. They took X-rays of some of the mummies displayed and discussed their findings while looking straight into the video camera.

I didn't find the mummies eerie or creepy, but fascinating. However, it's interesting to note that some time during the evening, bugs started swarming all over the place. The little critters were everywhere and we were picking them off each other's backs and hair. The moment the crew finished filming and packed up their equipment, the bugs disappeared.

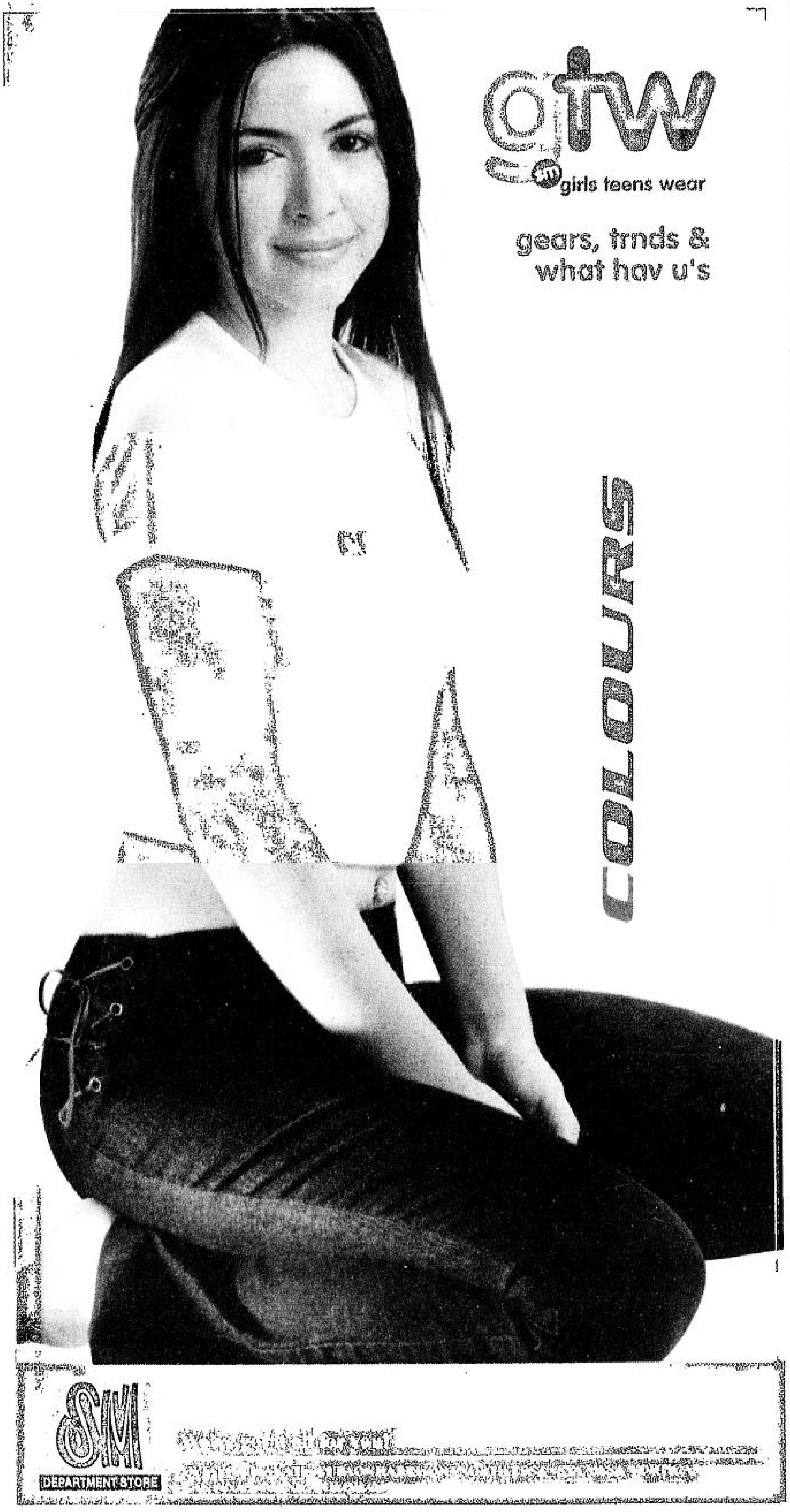
As we said goodbye, I kept thinking about Beckett's answer when asked if he were afraid of the dead: "No. You should be afraid of people who are alive."

Ask your cable operator about the National Geographic Channel's "The Mummy Roadshow."

E-mail the author at waltsang@mail.com



THE BUGS! The bugs! The bugs!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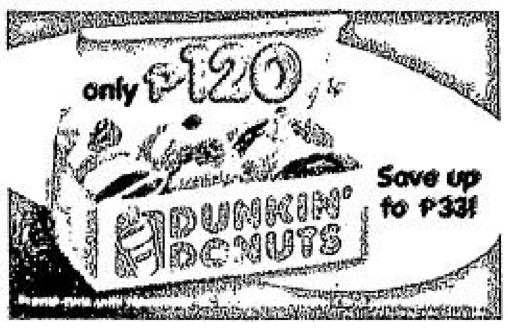

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Globe's Nokia 3510, Ericsson T200 and Trium Mystral make a quantum leap in services and features

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

GLOBE recently unveiled its Xtra-long Txt, e-Mail on the run (XTM) promo by introducing three of the latest cell phones launched by Nokia, Ericsson and Trium. These three are all GPRS- (general packet radio service) enabled, which means faster access to information available over the Wireless Application Protocol, or WAP for short. Here's the lowdown on the 3510, T200 and the Mystral to help you decide which GPRS phone to have if you are in search of one.

Nokia 3510

Many reviews have cited this phone as the best in the Nokia 33xx series, and it's not hard to see why. It's probably one of the friendliest phones made by Nokia, considering that it's already loaded with features including the polyphonic ring tones. Unlike your average mobiles, the 3510 will enhance your sound experience since it makes use of 40 different instruments that will totally blow you away. For example, the standard message alert tone available in Nokia can be quite irritating especially

LOADED/ p.F2

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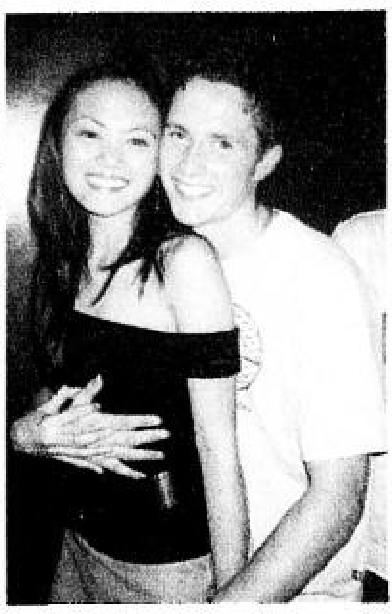

EAST WEST SIDE. Thea Anzures and James Ryan

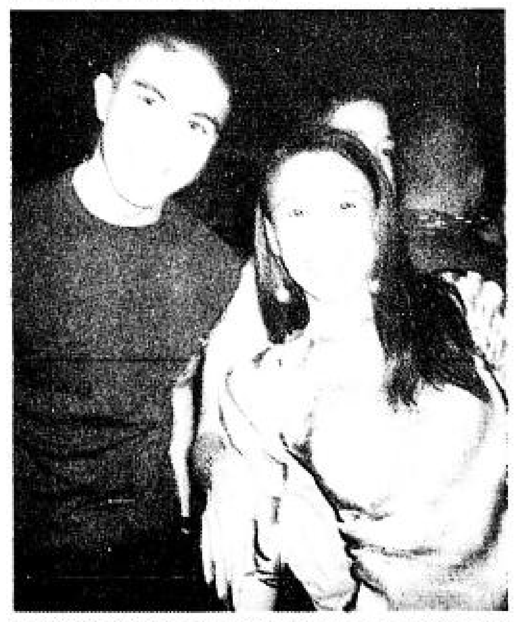
MEN OF O. Bacchus Zulueta and Rem Zamora

RAISE THE ROOF. Bobet Villaluz and Kevin Ruiz, O music meisters

OFF TO NEW YORK. Raffy Ladao, here with Manu Sandejas at his despedida party hosted by Boompy Martel

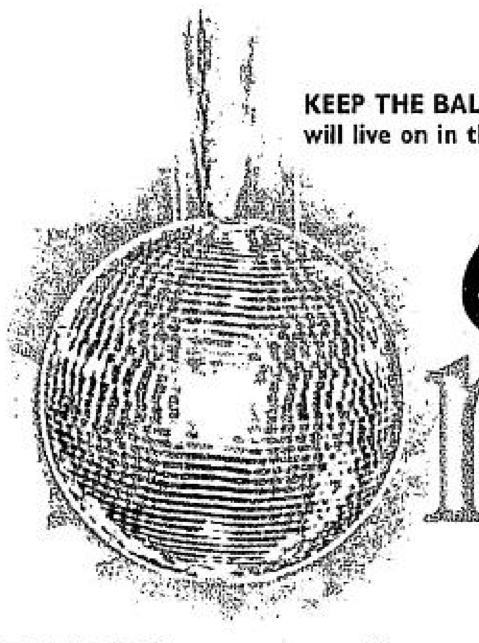
PARTY STYLE. Miguel Rosales and Mark Tuason

LA BOHEME. Epy and Dos Quizon, Carlo Paqui and Norris Lopez


LUCKY STREAK. Lucky Manzano with Lisa Buenaflor

MEN ZONE. Migi Romero and Paolo Caballin

THE STAGE IS SET. Ralion Alonso, Sheila Valderrama and Lawrence Martinez


KEEP THE BALL ROLLIN'. 78 Orange, just like its predecessor ABG's, will live on in the hearts of the clubbers whose lives it has affected

Ode to Orange

Tim Yap

HOW do you say goodbye to a nightlife institution that has become like a second (for some, even first) home to a whole generation of clubbers, hosted the most unforgettable parties and theme nights, caused traffic on Makati Avenue and strong, conflicting opinions between parents and their kids? Well, you throw a big goddamn' party to gather anyone and everyone who has been part of it, that's how.

Last Saturday, young, nocturnal Manila bid adieu to the controversial clubbing establishment 78 Orange. As early as Monday last week, text messages affirming O's last night in town had been sent, following weeks of talk about an alleged drug-related arrest of the club's guest DJ by some police officials. "Blown out of proportion," opined one scene mover, who requested anonymity, "just like the news from the time we opened that we were selling drugs over the counter."

Truth be told, no bar or club owner would be caught dead doing that. Not only is it too expensive but also impossible. Manila just has its own way of spreading malicious, almost impossible talk. Then again, that's all water under the bridge. God knows, this gossip has been around during the ABG's heydays.

I savor the time when 78 Orange was an industry secret. Ages ago, I remember when the owners requested me not to write about the club yet, as they wanted it to be semi-exclusive for people who really wanted to enjoy the music and the vibe. This was even before they had the membership card, which, again, caused controversy among the boisterous few.

Responsible fun

The scene's explosion, word of mouth, guest DJs, new discovery DJs and multiple mornings after, 78 Orange has become part and parcel of every young urbanite's party map, providing non-stop fun till what seemed like forever.

Inside its halls, one can forget the world and just drown in the company of other clubbers and be transported into a different world via the music and the vibe. Yes, a sense of void pervades the interiors, but that's where the magic of Orange lies—it can be anything and everything you wish it to be. Whether sober or intoxicated, everyone who has been inside its hallowed halls will never forget what it stood for—responsible fun.

In fact, Orange was one of the most peace-loving clubs in Manila—only when a different group of people started calling it their own did the club have brawls—but it stopped right after the owners did something about it. It was the venue for a lot of launch parties, DJ residencies (**Nicky, Bobet, Mano, David, Anthony**, etc...all had their best gigs here), DJ debuts (the discovery of **Kevin Ruiz**, and in their special DJ nights, even designer **Rhett Eala**) and demise (it was here when I realized I could not DJ to save my life)—most importantly, the strengthened bond between scene movers and shakers, friendships made, relationships established and broken, and more.

The final night was surprisingly jovial—the car park stretch at their part of Makati Avenue was expectedly full, the bouncers and gate people were very warm and welcoming. Past its doors, it was packed, to say the least. The crowd was mixed, from Orange loyalists to the owners and partners (a lot of whom one has not seen in a while) to celeb partyphiles like **Sarah Meier, Epy Quizon, Inno Sotto, Mandy Santos, Patrick Rosas**. It was a gathering of A-Z that only O could have done.

Part of us

Everybody raised their hands as DJ **Nicky Jurado** kept the crowd on their feet—every beat he played struck an emotional chord with the partyphiles on the dance floor. Everyone was smiling from ear to ear, exchanging friendly nods with each other, knowing that they all grew up in one way or another, with Orange, its music, its vibe, its people.

No one could leave the dance floor; the nostalgia trip was just too strong—I stayed sober, wanting to absorb every beat the natural way. I stared at the O spots one last time. The stairs (the agony of going up and down in whatever state), the bar (flirtation, either with some fresh pick or the bartenders, to get the drinks fast), the dance floor (where scenes of boundless energy and excitement take place) and the toilets (no comment) will all be a part of us.

I will never forget the horror I'd feel whenever I came out from the club and saw the harsh rays of the sun shining brightly, the confused looks from passersby and morning joggers, the friendly fish ball vendors, the over-eager parking attendants, the after, after parties.

We say goodbye for now, but who knows, just like old friends, maybe we'll say hello again in the future.

ROCKD TRIO. Marco De Guzman, Sarah Meier and Martin De Guzman

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

FOUR PLAY AT O. Charlotte Zulueta, Ito Boy Laygo, Giselle Sityar and Gina Mok

GIANTS WITHIN OUR MIDST. Anthony Kierulf and Boompy Martel

LAST HURRAH. "Owange" muse Tina Jurado

INDUSTRY ICONS. Patrick Rosas, Mandy Santos and Inno Sotto

MODEL BEHAVIOR. TV Valdes and Baba Parma

SPIRIT OF O. Nicky Jurado and Andy Cruz

Loaded with style and versatility

From page F1

when everyone around you has the same tone. The polyphonic standard message tone makes it sound as if it's echoing. The downside: it's almost inaudible when you're in a noisy place, say, the mall, even at level 5. Also, downloading ordinary ringing tones is almost futile since you cannot hear the tune unless you actually place your ear on the phone's speaker. Say goodbye to your composer with this one.

Another downside is the case. It has a blue back case, and black for the front. It has the feel of plastic, and looks tacky. However, Nokia has released attention-grabbing covers for the 3510, which are divided into three parts: Active covers, which blink differently according to your ringing tone; Reactive covers, which glow in the dark; and Gaming covers, which have a different keypad so it'll be easier for you to play games. Now, the downside has been eliminated.

Like the 3310, it has a predictive text input, and is capable of sending and receiving more than 400 characters. It can hold up to 500 names in its phone book and 150 messages in the inbox.

Ericsson T200

This stylish-looking phone may attract the jetsetters out there because the T200 is a triband mobile and can therefore be used in different countries in the US and Europe. However, its features aren't as many as the 3510. For example, it cannot receive Multimedia Messaging (MMS), and its sound isn't polyphonic. Although the T200 does offer EMS or Enhanced Messaging, which lets you add pictures and sounds to your message, I guess the disadvantage is that you can only send it to mobiles that are EMS-enabled, and not many models have that, as opposed to MMS.

Like the other Ericsson models, this mobile has a folder-like menu system, which has a clickety sound every time you press a button. It is compatible with a CommuniCam, which lets you take photos and send them through your phone as an e-mail attachment, but that may seem useless since the T200 isn't colored, like the 3510. It has a blue screen and backlight, though, which makes it different from most of the cell phones in the market.

Other cute features include a picture phonebook, which lets you add photos in your contact numbers' details so that every time someone gives you a call, the corresponding photo flashes on your screen. Besides, it has a wallpaper function so that your standby display wouldn't look boring.

Trium Mystra

For the person with no frills, this is the phone for you. It has all the essentials, but not much bonus features. It has polyphonic melodies, a tone composer, vibrating alert and intuitive text input. It has no calendar, but has a notepad, with only two games. Phone memory, meanwhile, can store up to 100 names. Mitsubishi Telecoms, the manufacturer of this phone, is proud of the fact that it has 165 hours of standby time.

THE GLOBE XTM Team: Nico, Iya, Mr. G and Sami

'Marriage' made in mobile phone heaven

New service allows cell phone users to send and receive both email and long messages

RUTH'S boyfriend, Angelo, left to study in the United States over two months ago. The two have been texting each other nonstop, resulting in Ruth's astronomical mobile phone bills. Although she knows e-mail would be a more practical way of reaching him, there's just something about mobile communication that she couldn't resist. "I like knowing I can reach him any time; it doesn't matter where I am, I can just pull my phone out of my bag and text."

After leaving college, Walter pursued his dream of stardom. He soon started touring with a theater group, doing shows in various provinces. Things felt almost perfect for him, save for one thing. "I feel so out of the loop. I used to rely so much on the Internet to stay in touch with my friends. I haven't been reading their online journals. I don't know all the latest *kwento*. Text can only get you so far, you know."

XTM and GPRS might just change the mobile life of these people.

Just a week after its launch in Manila, Cebuanos had the chance to see what XTM was about. Mr. G., Iya, Sami and Mico, the Globe XTM team, demonstrated to the crowd that gathered in the entertainment hall of the Ayala Center-Cebu how the new technology worked.

General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) enables networks to offer "always-on" Internet-based content and packet-based data services. Globe XTM (X-tra long Text and e-Mail on the run) uses this technology to allow users with GPRS-capable phones—Nokia 6510, 7650 and 8310; Ericsson's T68 and T200, the Trium Mystal and the Mitsubishi Eclipse—to send and receive extra long text messages (480 characters) and e-mail anytime.

With the Nokia 3310, 3330 and 5210, a 480-character message would be sent in three-parts. Now, users with GPRS-capable phones receive all 480 characters at the same time—no need to wait for the next installment of the message. Sending and receiving e-mail is quick and simple—and the inbox can store up to 60 messages. There are also lots of pictures in the XTM Gallery that can be attached to the messages for added expression.

Both prepaid and post-paid subscribers will be charged only P1 for every e-mail and extra-long message sent.

That should keep people bound to the mobile in their hands—if they aren't too attached already.

Pam Pastor

Call 211 toll-free from your Globe Handyphone or call 730-1000 from a landline for inquiries

Skincare regimen for guys

From page F4

face. Well this, fellas, is the reason why my skin is a lot better than yours. Hah! Most of you guys, being such chauvinistic *kikay* hypocrites, would rather sky dive without a parachute than be spotted within 10 ft of a mudpack. This attitude is getting old, really. Sometimes, you just have to bend for vanity, especially if those stubborn blackheads and that gleaming nose aren't helping you any with *da* girls. St. Ives Firming Masque and Ten-o-Six Oatmeal Mask both do a pretty good job of vacuuming dirt and oil from the depths of your pores. Just avoid any public appearances while you're going at it.

Kiss me

Not if your smoocher scratches, I won't! I don't care how piercing your eyes are or how painfully *tangos* your nose is if your lips have more scales than a crate of sardines. Especially to those with a filthy smoking habit, lip care should never be left out of your *kikoy* repertoire. Stay away from tinted balms, though. There are a few bigger turn-offs than a guy who looks like he has lipstick on. Keep it as "technical" as possible with Vaseline Lip Therapy—does the job without the girly fuss.

Powder boys

A man with a compact is a disgrace to Adam's race. Never should a guy powder his nose, or any part of his face, for that matter. Because you are left with no mattifying options, I recommend Gatsby Oil-Blotting Sheets for times when your date seems to be more intent on staring at her own reflection off your shiny face than the conversation you're having.

It would be an understatement to say that a man's psyche is a tough nut to crack. What they do and do not like are just beyond a woman's expertise. Their vanity, however, seems to just show through that ironclad macho image they so struggle to project. Finally, we find ourselves standing on common ground—and I won't be surprised if it literally meant the salon floor.

All products are available at PCX and other health and beauty stores

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com

Her father . . .

From page F4

example, right and wrong, even if we've taken the wrong path, the hurtful path.

Feelings are immune from rationalization and should not be questioned; they can never be denied. But this I must tell you: You cannot wish for everything to go back to normal, or the way it was a year ago. Time moves without our direction, and it leaves us changed without our permission. But love and support make time less of a factor as it passes, and change becomes a chance to experience growth and feel love and happiness again.

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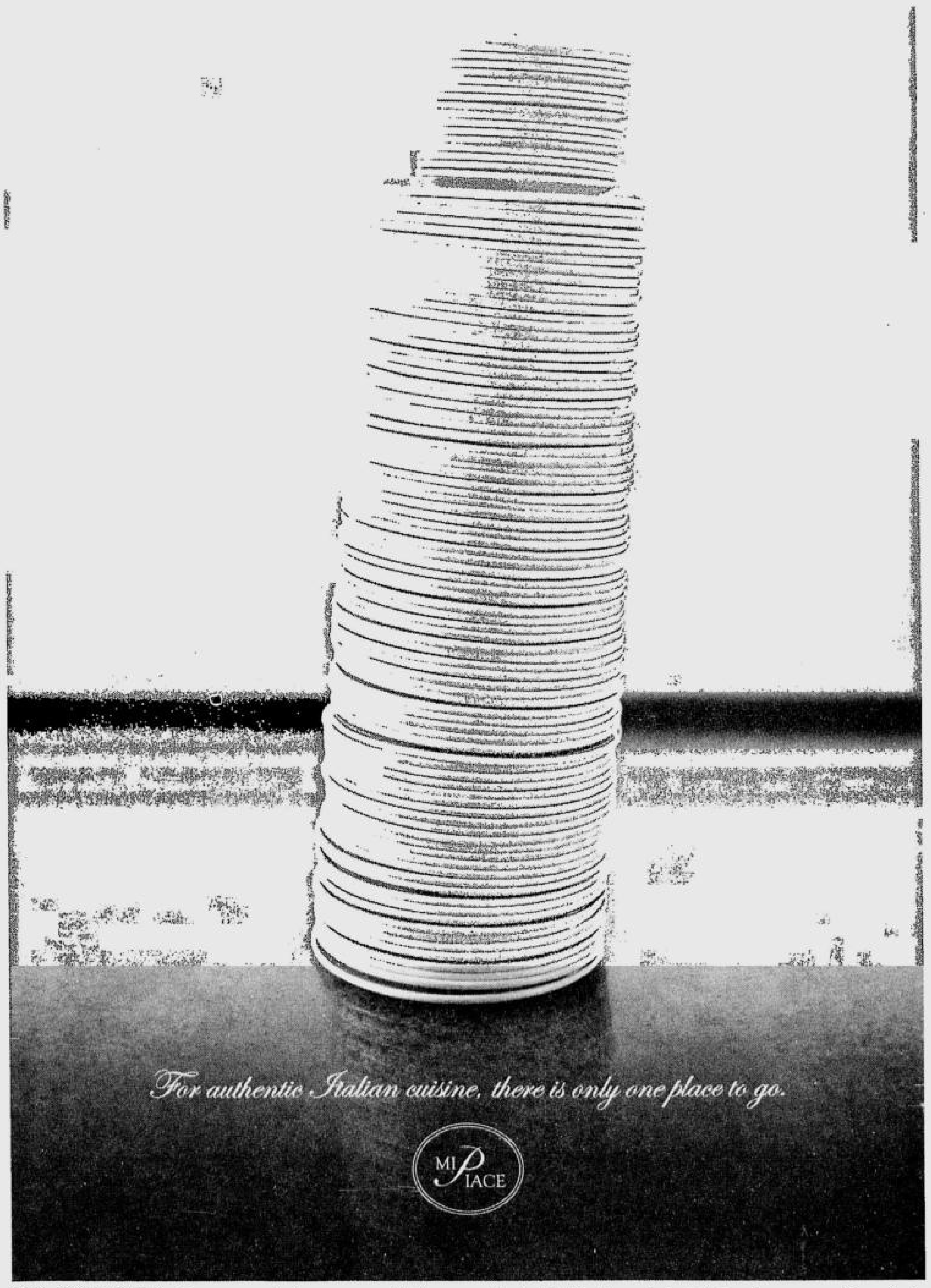

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Skin-care regimen for guys

Lora Gabol

UNDERSTANDING the male species is as easy as walking backward on a tightrope—in a blindfold. Six seasons of sampling the smorgasbord of men in New York City and a number of Emmys haven't done it for the girls of "Sex and the City," proving that perky breasts and a closet full of designer shoes aren't sure tickets to figuring out the opposite sex. But before I go on yet another attempt to analyze the inner workings of a man's mind, let me zero in on one simple reality all girls must know, the one pet peeve inscribed on every XY chromosome: Never mess with a man's hair.

So I'm exaggerating. If it were the only rule we had to live by, we'd all be happily swimming in romantic mush by now. Fact is, men and women were created on different molds. In self-help terminology, men are from Mars and women are from Venus—until they landed on Earth and discovered vanity.

If the number of requests I've received from guys were any indication then, yes, it would be safe to assume men really do care about the way they look—and, as I've recently discovered, how to improve it. Gone are the days when a bar of soap and a razor were all the essentials a guy needed to be *guwapo*. Zits and static flyaways are no longer just within a woman's turf; their macho counterparts fret about this kind of stuff as well. To those whose insistent prodding I'm giving in to, this week's column is for you. I assure you that every minute spent away from your PlayStation would be well worth it.

Cleanse, tone, moisturize

No, this is not a new car-wash procedure. Taking care of your skin is imperative, especially because only under very special circumstances is it acceptable for a guy to have foundation and concealer on, meaning, no blemish has the option of doing a temporary disappearing act.

I have noticed quite a number of guys discreetly carrying a tube of Pond's Facial Wash into the locker rooms, so I guess they aren't as *kikay*-clueless as they used to be. I would suggest, however, that they move on to a cleanser with more muscle. Neutrogena Deep Clean has tougher ingredients to tackle the grime you've accumulated after that soccer game. Now, if you've developed an unbreakable bond with your Pond's, I advise that an upgrade to Pond's Refreshing Oil Removing Scrub is in order.

I know guys who actually use Eskinol, and I'm not talking the *sikreto ng mga guwapo* the late Rico Yan endorsed. Guys, you have way thicker, and generally, oilier skin than the porcelain-complexioned models in those Eskinol commercials. Your pores also tend to turn into bigger craters, thus requiring the services of L'Oreal Pore Minimizing Toner, a heavy-duty astringent that will get rid of the *tigidigs* you're always complaining about.

If this three-step skin-care regimen were a route to better skin, then most guys are taking the short cut and skipping the last but definitely not the least important step. There is just no macho way of applying a floral-scented cream on your face, I know. But think of it this way: Done in the privacy of your own bathroom, you do not risk losing any *pogi* points. You might cringe at the thought of it, but the baby-soft skin your girlfriend will find so adorable is enough reward for momentarily turning into a sissy. For grease-prone skin, L'Oreal HydraFresh Aquagel is as light as plain water, while Clean and Clear Oil-Free Moisturizer helps keep those pimples away.

Like it rough?

Exfoliation. It's as natural as breathing for girls—a term alien to male vocabulary. In dermatological jargon, it's the process of sloughing off dead skin cells bound by keratin to reveal a new epidermal layer. In male lingo: Applying a really scratchy substance that, according to a very *kikay* columnist, will make one's skin look better. Get the gist? Try St. Ives Apricot Scrub once a week. You won't turn into Piolo Pascual, but the rosy glow it leaves your skin with may convince you that you are, indeed, 1/16 *tisoy*.

What is that on your face?

I've been asked this question a million times by my two younger brothers, after mistaking me for a yeti with green gunk slathered on my

SKIN-CARE/ p.F3

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Her father is having an extramarital affair

Carlos Garchitorena
& September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

For five months now, I have been suspecting that my father has another woman. I see signs like he gets home later than usual, he's on the phone more often and he's always saying that he's busy whenever we plan to have a day out.

My dad has always been busy because of his work, but there is something different now. He's distracted most of the time. Plus, he and my mom fight more often now over the stupidest things such as the design of the necktie that my mother bought for him. It's driving me crazy!

One time, I answered the phone and a woman asked for my dad. She called him by his first name. Then, while they were talking, my dad looked so happy he was even laughing, but he was talking softly so I didn't hear what they were talking about. I want to confront my father and ask him what is happening. But I'm also scared and angry. What should I do?

WD

I am going to give you the benefit of the doubt regarding your suspicions about your father. After all, if there'd be anyone who could tell the changes that had happened to him, it would be you.

I'm not a big fan of confrontations, especially if I only had suspicions and no concrete evidence yet. So, before you think of a way to approach your father, why don't you talk to your mother first? Ask her what she thinks; I'm sure she has also noticed the changes, too, just like you have. But don't jump the gun and say out right that you believe your dad is having an extramarital affair. Play it by ear first and find out what she thinks.

Then both of you can agree on a way to approach your father, so he would see that the little attitude differences he has been having is troubling the family, and is not just limited to between him and your mom.

A word of caution, though: Try to be as cool-headed as you can in talking to both of your parents. If your mother suddenly went into histrionics, assume the role of the voice of logic. If your father acted indifferently to you, be more pushy and show your anger.

I know you're not in the best situation in the world, but you have to do your best not to give in easily to rash actions and decisions.

Good luck.

SEP

When I was a child, I read in an ad in Time Magazine, "Don't bother children with the world's problems. They have enough worries of their own." I've kept that saying in my heart.

Parents have a way of dealing with their problems, which sometimes make them forget they have children. Children, on the other hand, often think their parents have no concerns other than them. I guess for all concerned, with maturity and experience comes the realization that everyone deserves their day in the sun, even if our sky is sometimes cloudy and filled with thunder and lightning.

Although I believe our happiness should never result, whether intentionally or not, in the pain of others, it is important to assert ourselves and fight for our own happiness. Even for peace, sometimes, we have to fight little wars. The only question is, what do we store in our arsenal? Thoughts born out of frustration? Words whispered by pain? These can surely be justified. These are feelings that should never be denied nor neglected.

Sure, the negative product of these feelings can also be justified, but recognize your feelings, and find out why you are feeling that way. The answer will most certainly be found in you, and not outside of you.

If it is anger you feel, it's not because of your father cheating on you; it is because of the betrayal that you feel. If it is fear, it's not because your family might end up a broken one, but because you don't know what's going on between your parents.

Sep is right—confront your mom first, but do so with a clear objective: That you love her and care for her, and maybe the only thing she needs now is support, a shoulder to cry on, maybe an outlet as she explodes and goes hysterical. Support her.

When you confront your father, with or without your mom, do so with a clear objective: To know the truth, to introduce open lines of communication between the two of you. No lying. No hidden agenda. Teach each other, by

HER FATHER/ p.F3